

THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

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A technical history of music (2)

Do, Re, MIDI

By Haltham Ibrahim
Special to The Star

WHAT IF someone came up to you a decade ago and told you that the most advanced development in music technology would be something that didn't make a single sound? You would have probably punched him right in the nose! But it's true. The greatest invention since the synthesizer is the five pin cable. Read on to discover how pin magic can work for you.

Remember the old days when you had to wrestle with tons of

synths with pre-programmed patches such as the Oberheim OB-X and the Prophet-5. The digital age was to follow with the introduction of new instruments in the early eighties. They had computer-like interfaces (in the form of LCDs) with digital waveforms, and later in the mid eighties with digitally recorded samples.

Nothing sounds like a fat juicy analog synthesizer. But most analog synths were monophonic (you couldn't press two keys simultaneously). Every manufacturer had his own language, often

massive subject that would require more space to be explained explicitly.

The computer is a digital machine, so it would be wise to use it in a MIDI set-up. Only you need an interface of some kind to let the computer speak the language of MIDI. Once you connect a keyboard to a computer, you can start playing a tune while the computer happily records it in memory. Play another part on top and you have an orchestra going. If you want, you can edit the notes you play on the screen making it a nice compositional environment that Beethoven would've killed for.

In order to set up a small MIDI studio, you need two essentials, a computer and a keyboard that has MIDI jacks. You must have a MIDI interface along with a couple of cables hooked up to your computer. The cables should be hooked in the MIDI IN jack of your computer and the MIDI OUT jack of the synth. Along with a proper software program such as Opcode for the Macintosh or Cakewalk for the PC,

music sheets just to put your ideas on paper? What made things even worse was that you had to strain your muscles for hours in order to play your notes flawlessly. In the past only few musicians were lucky enough to be called composers, and it's not hard to understand why. But today the bad old days are gone because you are about to discover the joys of MIDI sequencing.

Back in the 1960s, Bob Moog invented the renowned Moog synth, a first in its commercial uses. It was analog, which basically means that it used voltage control to modulate its own primitive set of waveforms. This is utilized by the user through tweaking knobs to make modulations to a sound. In those days, the instrument came with only one sound, so if you wanted new sounds you had to program them yourself or else you had the same sound forever. Talk about choices from hell... Then came analog

being clumsy and shabby, to make his instruments talk to one another. Finally, the industry giants agreed on a common language to enable different instruments to talk to each other. The result was MIDI (Music Instrument Digital Interface).

MIDI is basically a language made up of binary numbers (zeros and ones), that allows one synth to speak to another. A five pin cable connected to each machine allows this interchange of data. If you have two keyboards with MIDI jacks, you could play both by only playing one of them. After you press a key, the keyboard's processor initiates a command telling the other keyboard which key to play, how to play it and how long it lasts. Since big time studio jocks used to dub several synths together for a fat sound, the need for a protocol (MIDI here) was not hard to see by industry giants. MIDI is a

you should have a basic set up ready to go. Your synth must be multifunctional, i.e. it can receive MIDI data on different channels simultaneously triggering different instruments.

If a lot of questions pop in your head about MIDI, then maybe you should read about them in magazines like *Keyboard* or *Sound On Sound*. It might be better if you bought an introductory book about the subject such as *Mind Over MIDI*, which introduces you to the basics of the subject.

If you are serious about your music then maybe you should consider MIDI as a real solution. To spice up your music, it offers many creative options that are just easy to miss if you don't have any interest in the subject. After all, technology is supposed to make life a hell lot easier!

Haltham Ibrahim is a member of The Project, a Jordanian band.

Personal Digital Assistants:
Newton's Apple

APPLE'S FIRST real technological breakthrough since the Macintosh looks set to bridge the gap between the computer industry and the consumer electronics industry. Apple's Newton technology revolves around pen based personal organizers which use computer technology to develop the concept of personal organizers by creating Personal Digital Assistants.

Personal organizers are those little calculator-like gadgets that many busy people carry around in their pockets to keep track of telephone numbers, business cards, addresses and appointments. A small keyboard is usually the method of data entry, which is one reason why people don't really see them as "personal", another is the complexity of methods of entry and the difficulty to receive output, in other words the lack of a friendly user interface. This is where Apple technology, known for its ultra friendly user interface used in the Macintosh computers steps in. It differs from other pen operating systems in that it is based on the simultaneous use of several recognition technologies.

Newton supports its user very cleverly, learning more about the way the user operates. It actually learns the way its user enters data and develops patterns of output to suit your human methods of input. For example, if you want to enter a dinner appointment with a friend and you like to use short concise sentences, you could enter something like "Dinner with Ahmad Thursday". The Newton, knows that dinner usually refers to an event during the late evening, checks who Ahmad is by cross referencing his name with your address book and that Thursday probably means next Thursday.

So the Newton suggests that its user opens up his/her appointment book and enters a dinner appointment with Ahmad Humaid at 7:00 pm. This is a simple example of Newton's ability to understand your ideas, organize them and then represent them.

Wire and wireless forms of communication are also catered for since users should be able to exchange personal cards, compare schedules, send and receive fax messages or even connect to a satellite to keep up to date with all the latest news or stock prices.

Just imagine; all this in something that is the size of a small book.

These are only some of the features revealed by Apple provided by the first glimpse of its Newton Technology which is still in its beginning. Apple is currently developing another product called "Casper" which is a machine like the Newton, but which can receive voice commands. It is one step further towards personalizing these machines and probably represents the strongest user interface to be used in computer technology yet!

Newton will be released in the beginning of 1993 and you can expect to see it in Jordan around that time. However, how much of a success it will be remains to be seen. The day when people would walk around town talking into a computer gadget in their hand or using it to communicate with one another has finally arrived.

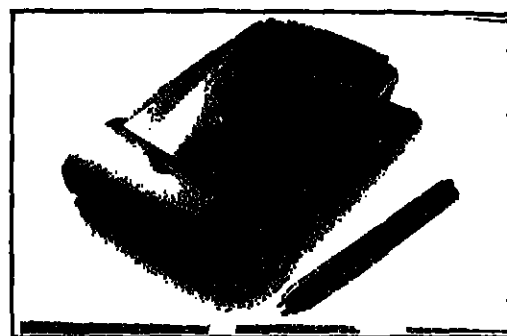
Al Muhasib
Al Mithali
Seminar

IDEAL SYSTEMS, distributors for Apple Computer, held a seminar on "Al Muhasib Al Mithali", the accounting package that offers a comprehensive solution for your accounting

needs. It was held at the Amman Marriott Hotel, on Wednesday 26th, 1992 at 4:00 p.m.

Presentations were given by Jalal Abd-Al Qader and Muder Balseo and included a preview of Ideal Systems' development effort, slides overview.

Al Muhasib Al Mithali's demonstration included the General Journal, General Ledger and Financial statements.



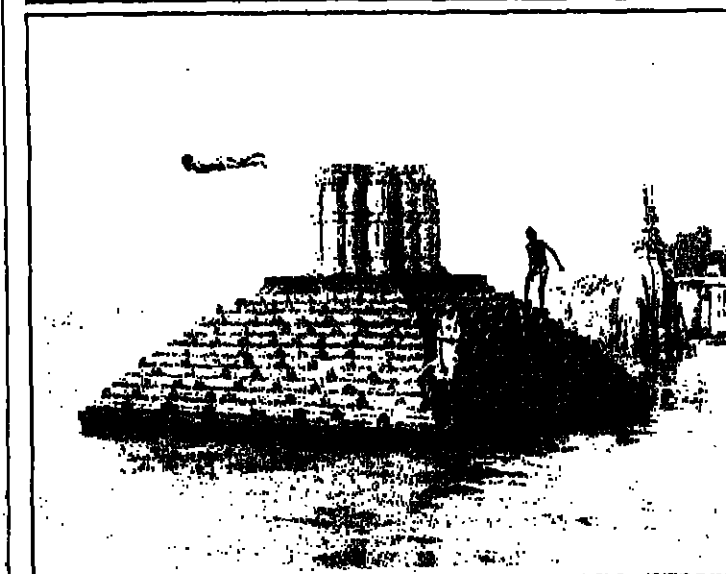
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Jordan's political, economic
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The Star



JORDAN

W E K

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Deputies arrested in connection with militant group

Two Lower House deputies have been detained for allegedly being involved in the forming of a militant underground group. Deputy for the Amman Second District Sheikh Yacoub Qarash, was arrested last Thursday following the discovery of an illegal armed group. A statement by Minister of Interior Mr Jawdat Shoul said the deputy was accused of organizing, heading and financing the group. Security forces made a number of arrests in connection with the case.

On Monday, prominent independent Islamist deputy Mr Laith Shbeilat was also arrested for questioning for his alleged association with the illegal organization, Youth of Al Nafeer Al Islami. Mr Shbeilat, a popular and outspoken deputy representing the Third District of Amman, was taken from his house Monday night after security forces presented him with a warrant from the military prosecutor. His house and office were thoroughly searched for hours and tapes, computer disks and documents were confiscated in addition to two personal firearms.

Mr Shbeilat is wanted for questioning regarding allegations that his car, which carries Parliament license plates, was used on a number of occasions to transport arms and explosives belonging to the illegal organization. Sources close to Mr Shbeilat said he had



Mr Shbeilat

no knowledge of his car being used to carry explosives.

The arrest of Mr Shbeilat came as a shock to the public. Mr Shbeilat, former president of the Engineers Association, received the highest number of votes in the 1989 general elections for his district. He is an outspoken deputy who heads the House's Investigative Committee, which was responsible for bringing to the House the recent cases of alleged official corruption in which former prime minister Zaid Rifai and members of his cabinet were involved.

Mr Shbeilat is a close associate of Sheikh Qarash, both of whom are independent Islamists and are members of a *suft* group called *Dar Al Quran* headed by Sheikh Abdel Halim Abu Ghazaleh.

So far at least 15 other people were arrested for their association with the illegal organization. Sources told *The Star* that auto



Sheikh Qarash

matic weapons and explosives were traced to Sheikh Qarash. An official source said the organization was preparing to carry out terrorist missions in Jordan.

Security forces were monitoring Sheikh Qarash for some time, but chose to crack down on the group after Parliament adjourned few days ago. Deputies lose their immunity when Parliament is not in session.

Questioning of suspects, which began on Saturday, is said to have exposed Sheikh Qarash's direct involvement in arms smuggling and organizing the group. He is also accused of bringing finances from outside Jordan.

A military prosecutor is expected to refer the case to the State Security Court for a public trial. Sheikh Qarash appointed on Saturday a lawyer to defend him.

But *Ad Dustour* reported that the lawyer, Mr Ahmad Nijadawi, had demanded access to evidence before he can decide to take up the case. It said Mr Shbeilat tried to intervene on Monday with Mr Nijadawi to defend Sheikh Qarash, who is originally from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Deputy Shbeilat's lawyer, Mr Ibrahim Bakr who was present when Mr Shbeilat was detained, said he will try to get a release of the Amman deputy on bail. But a similar demand by Deputy Speaker of the Lower House Mr Abdel Karim Al Dughmi, was rejected by the military prosecutor.

Muslim Brotherhood movement disassociated itself from groups seeking to undermine the stability of the Kingdom, the *Jordan Times* reported on Wednesday.

It's party time

The Parties Law is now in operation after a Royal Decree was issued to approve it. Prime Minister Sharif Zaid ben Shaker described the law as an important achievement in Jordan's democratic process.

Meanwhile, contacts have begun on all popular levels to form political parties. Many parties are expected to emerge, but according to observers they will be grouped under four ideological

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trends. They are:

The Islamic Trend: Includes fundamentalist groups calling for the application of *Sharia*. They include the Muslim Brotherhood, the strongest and most popular so far, *Tahrir Party*, *Dar Al Quran* and the Islamic Revival Party among others.

The Nationalist Democratic Trend: Consists of pan-Arab movements, including the pro Syrian Arab *Baath* and the pro-Iraqi Arab *Baath*, the Nasserite Arab nationalist Party, the National Democratic Party of Jordan and the People's Party. Smaller groups under similar slogans will emerge.

The Leftist Trend: Includes mainly the now divided Communist Party, the Progressive Party, the Revolutionary Marxist movement and smaller splinter groups.

The Conservative Centrist Trend: Includes various parties and groups explicitly loyal to the Throne. These parties will play an important role in forming future governments. They include The National Alignment, the Labor, the New Arab, the Social Democratic, the Constitutional, the Nation, the Progress and Justice, the *Mustaqbal* and *Al Mi-thaq* among others.

By the latest count no fewer than 65 parties are expected to come forward within the coming weeks.

Gulf War victims apply for payments

More than 78,000 Jordanians and Palestinians submitted applications for UN Gulf War compensations, *Ad Dustour* quoted a Ministry of Labor official this week. It said that 50,000 belonged to A category — those who left Iraq and Kuwait between 2 August 1991 and 2 March 1992.

Water Authority says it did its job

The Water Authority has said that it has met its responsibility of delivering water to the Industrial Estate's water reservoir, but added that fire fighting set-ups inside the estate were insufficient. It was commenting on the circumstances associated with the fire which destroyed the Fine Hygienic Paper factory two weeks ago. The authority said it had di-

verted additional water to the estate when it was informed of the fire, but that insufficient installations inside the estate could not deliver badly needed water to the burning factory. The authority said it was not informed of recent expansions within the industrial estate so as to evaluate water needs. The estate receives 4000 cubic meters of water weekly, which is less than the industrial needs of water at the estate.

Jordanians march in support of Iraq

About 2000 Jordanians participated Sunday in a demonstration to denounce US, British and French moves to partition southern Iraq. The demonstration, organized by a coalition of nationalist and Islamist movements, started from Al Abdali terminal and headed to downtown. A statement by the organizers condemned recent moves to create a no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Jordan's produce safe, minister says

Minister of Agriculture Dr Faiz Al Khasawneh has said that all shipments of agricultural produce exported to Saudi Arabia were inspected by specialists from the ministry and were found to be clear from any biological or chemical agents. Dr Khasawneh, who was speaking during a press conference Saturday, was commenting on Saudi reports that Jordanian trucks carrying produce were turned back after border inspection found the vegetables contaminated.

The Saudi authorities banned Jordanian trucks from entering Saudi Arabia until they receive guarantees that Jordanian fruit and vegetables are clear from all kinds of pollutants.

Dr Khasawneh said no contaminated shipments were encountered by ministry inspectors so far. He added that Jordanian farmers use pesticides with effects lasting no more than 48 hours.

Money Matters

Average exchange rates in Jls

Tuesday 1/9/1992

Buy Sell

US\$	663.0	665.0
£	1312.7	1319.3
DM	469.0	471.3
SFR	524.4	527.0
FRF	137.7	138.4
YEN	537.8	540.5
(100)		
DFL	415.8	417.9
SKR	128.2	128.8
LIT	61.5	61.8
(100)		
BLF	228.5	229.6
(10)		

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	3.3/8	9.13/16	10.3/16	4.3/16	7.3/4
2 mo.	3.1/2	9.11/16	10.1/4	4.1/8	7.13/16
3 mo.	3.1/2	9.15/16	10.5/8	3.15/16	7.7/8
6 mo.	3.11/16	9.7/8	10.3/4	4.5/16	7.2/8
year	3.3/4	9.13/16	10.7/8	4.1/8	8.3/4

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 6.25%, Call accounts 8%, 1 week 7.25%, 1 month 7.38%, 2 months 7.50%, 3 months 7.50%, 1 year 8%. Lending rate (AAA) 12.50%.

Dollar:

DMK SFR STG YEN CAN FRF

LAST: 1.499/90 1.547/85 1.524/90 124.30/40 1.195/64 8.0425

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

The peace process

Impasse on all fronts

By a Star Staff Writer &
agency dispatches

THE WASHINGTON peace talks hit a number of hurdles this week as Palestinians appeared to reject an Israeli proposal on limited self-rule, while negotiations between Israeli teams and their Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese counterparts failed to push the process forward.

After one week of active negotiations, the first since the government change in Israel, Jordan's chief negotiator Dr Abdel Salam Majali told reporters that the gap separating the two positions remained. Jordan and Israel could not agree on a common agenda for the talks, while differences still existed on Israel's settlement activities and interpretations of UN resolutions number 242.

Dr Majali said Jordan is concerned with Israel's settlement activities because it is directly linked with Jordan's security.

Spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, Dr Marwan Muasher, said that the last session, which was concluded on Tuesday, was a difficult one and that the Israeli side had retracted from previous positions and adopted harsher ones. He said the Israelis still rejected the basics of the process and refused to include them in the working agenda.

The results of the first week of the bilateral negotiations dashed earlier hopes that the new Israeli government would move into substantive issues. The talks have been adjourned for one week to allow Israeli negotiators, who flew to Israel, to consult with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

When the talks opened two weeks ago, heads of Arab delegations spoke of a marked change in Israel's language on various issues, including the Golan, Palestinian autonomy and peace with the Arabs.

But Dr Muasher said that Tuesday's session had given the impression that the Israelis were not serious about the peace process. He said the Israelis did not want to talk about settlements or 242 and were not admitting their annexation of Jordanian territory.

A crisis in this sixth round of negotiations appeared after heads of the Arab delegations met early last week to evaluate the results of the first week of negotiations.

The current round should end on 23 September, but *Al Quds* newspaper said a fresh round is expected to begin two weeks later in Washington.

No progress was reported by any of the working groups. Palestinians expressed their frustration with the Israeli proposals, which they said falls short of any Palestinian expectation. The Palestinians reiterated their demand that an administrative council with full legislative powers be elected in the West Bank to facilitate the transition into a Palestinian state. They described Israeli proposals as "Likudish" in substance.

Speaking at a press conference, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, Mrs Hanan Ashrawi said that the Israeli proposals centered on the Palestinian population and not the land. She said while the Israeli delegation had answered most of the Palestinian questions on the proposal, a wide gap existed. She said the delegation was working hard to prevent an impasse.

Mrs Ashrawi rejected Israeli attempts to exclude Jerusalem or any part of the occupied areas, from negotiations. She said Jerusalem remained a central issue for all Palestinians. She said the Palestinians were working to force Israel to rescind a 1968 military order which suspended the registration of Palestinian land.

The Palestinian team was still waiting for Israel's response on the formation of two committees to discuss human rights in the occupied areas and the handing of power to the provisional council. A member of the Israeli team was quoted as saying that the Israelis were ready in principle to discuss the legal status of the occupied areas.

Meanwhile, Syrian-Israeli talks appeared deadlocked on the fate of the Golan Heights. Head of the Syrian delegation Dr Muwafaq Al Alaf expressed his disappointment with the talks so far, but added that it was too early to make final judgments.

News reports said the two sides were exchanging notes on a number of issues. Last week Mr Rabin told a Knesset session that "we will not give up the Golan Heights, but that does not mean we have to cling to every single centimeter of land there." He said Israel's objective is to reach a peace accord with Syria "in which we will maintain sovereignty over the Heights."



King Hussein receiving members of the Jordan delegation to the peace talks in Washington on Tuesday

Mr Rabin said that while Israel recognizes 242 and 338 as the basis of negotiations with the Arabs, he did not think that these resolutions were "tantamount to a document of withdrawal."

One of the "positive" sides to the talks, observers noted, was the fact that Israel no longer made an issue of the Palestinian delegation's association with the PLO. Israeli proposals on the self-rule were sent from Washington to Tunis and later on Fai-

sal Husseini discussed them with PLO officials.

On the other hand, Israel's release of hundreds of Palestinian detainees was seen as an Israeli submission to earlier Palestinian demands regarding human rights situation in the occupied areas.

It remains to be seen how the Israeli delegations to Washington will handle the talks after they resume next week. Lebanese-Israeli talks also failed to move ahead. Lebanon

rejected an Israeli offer to jointly administer the occupied south.

PLO Chairman Mr Yasser Arafat told a Bahraini newspaper last week that the *"Intifada"* will continue and we will continue peace negotiations. "Israel has demanded that the *Intifada* be stopped before progress on the peace negotiations were made."

Mr Arafat said the move of former US Secretary of State James Baker to the White House to help boost President George Bush's election campaign would affect the peace talks. "It will have an effect...because there were personal promises from Baker to the Palestinians, and Baker, as a US Secretary of State had been trying to be neutral," he said.

On the other hand, His Majesty King Hussein received on Tuesday in Washington the head and members of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks. King Hussein reiterated the need to remain firm on the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The King arrived to Washington from Minnesota, where he underwent a successful surgery. The King was briefed on the peace talks by Dr Majali. ■

Best wishes to
His Majesty King Hussein
for a speedy recovery and good health



From

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Kuwait's Indian workers pay the price of Gulf War

By Prasanna Probyn

TRIVANDRUM, India — Years after the Gulf War, Kuwait is well on its way to recovery. But more than 80,000 Malayalees, natives of the south Indian state of Kerala, are still unable to return to Kuwait and wait anxiously to be called back to their former jobs there.

In Kerala, with a population of some 28 million (3.5 per cent of India's total), unemployment and under employment were a major problem even before the Gulf War. As a result, the stranded families are under severe stress.

Ravi, 38, who worked as heavy

vehicle driver for a construction company in Kuwait, has repeatedly written to his former employers requesting a visa to enable him to return to his job. While he waits, his wife keeps the pair of them and their three children by selling her jewelry. After working in Kuwait for 16 years, all the family has to show is a house in the small town of Thiruvalla in central Kerala, and the Toyota saloon in which they escaped from Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion.

For Ravi and his family, survival has become a constant struggle as the prospect of renewed employment in Kuwait remains a

distant and receding dream. "Private companies are not calling back their employees," he says. "India's ambivalent attitude to Kuwait during the war means that Kuwaitis are looking to their staunch supporters in the rebuilding of the country. They are not very favorable to the Indians."

Ravi was on a monthly salary of 250 Kuwaiti dinars (about \$850). His company had a bad payment record and still owes him 2500 dinars in back pay. "If we complained, we would be deported," he says. As a driver, he managed most of the time on tips.

Six months before the invasion,

he borrowed 650 dinars to pay for a visa for his brother to enable him to get work as a driver in Kuwait. The invasion and war dashed both their hopes and left Ravi in debt.

The outlook is equally bleak for most other Malayalee returnees. They came back from Kuwait with few possessions and, although some, like Ravi, had their own homes to go to, others have been forced to stay with relatives. Most are under the age of 40, unskilled and with few qualifications. Their plight is shared by the extended families who look to them for support.

Very few jobs are available in Kerala, the home state of 75 per cent of Indian nationals working in Kuwait.

During the years of plenty in the 1970s and 1980s, remittances from the Gulf states to Kerala were spent on houses, motor vehicles and consumer goods. In-

vestment in businesses was minimal. This was because Kerala — despite victory by the Congress Party in the recent elections to the state Parliament — has a strong Communist tradition, and trade unions are a powerful force. This has dissuaded potential entrepreneurs from investing.

The economic impact of the Gulf crisis on Kerala has been profound. Prices, particularly of land and houses, have fallen as some returnees have had no choice but to sell their homes to survive.

The war affected India in other ways. Sixty per cent of Iraq's construction projects were handled by Indian companies, which have nearly \$1 billion locked up there. They have been calling on the Indian government for grants to bail them out.

The state government of Kerala has not given any financial aid to the returned families. Rather it has called for them to be given special consideration in the job market and has asked schools to admit their children without going through elaborate formalities, such as requiring proof of qualifications, which were left behind in the flight from Kuwait.

Returning to Kuwait can be difficult. The Kuwait government is demanding that visa applicants should have a police clearance certificate from India — a means, it claims, of excluding "undesirables". The returnees believe that India's slow and often corrupt bureaucracy will leave them lagging behind as any vacancies are snapped up by Filipinos, Bangladeshis and Pakistanis.

The Gulf Malayalees Welfare Association in Kottayam, central Kerala — a volunteer organization run by Kuwait returnees — is campaigning for a better deal for the Gulf Malayalees.

The organization's general secretary, P. Abraham, claims that recruitment agencies in India are cheating people out of up to 30,000 rupees (\$1000) with the promise of Kuwaiti visas. Those who are desperate often sell their property or borrow the money to buy a visa, only to discover on arrival in Kuwait that the jobs and salaries they had been promised are a mirage. To add insult to injury, they have to pay the Kuwait government for a residence stamp in their passport: those the Malayalees had when they fled Kuwait are no longer valid.

Like Ravi, Abraham believes that Kuwait no longer welcomes Indians, particularly Indians over 40. "These people have no access to their gratuities which are looked up in their former companies," he complains. "The Kuwait government is not granting visitors' visas either. These people cannot go back to Kuwait just to receive their gratuity settlements and sell any personal belongings that remain or send them back to India."

Some companies have settled up with former employees, most notably those which operate internationally such as Kuwait Airways, the Kuwait National Petroleum Co. and the major banks. But many others have not followed suit.

The Gulf Malayalees Welfare Association is now helping the returnees to apply for war compensation, distributing United Nations forms to individuals who are claiming between \$4,000 and \$10,000 for loss of earnings and property in Kuwait.

For many Malayalees who made their homes in Kuwait and then lost everything, this is the only lifeline in a sea of despair.

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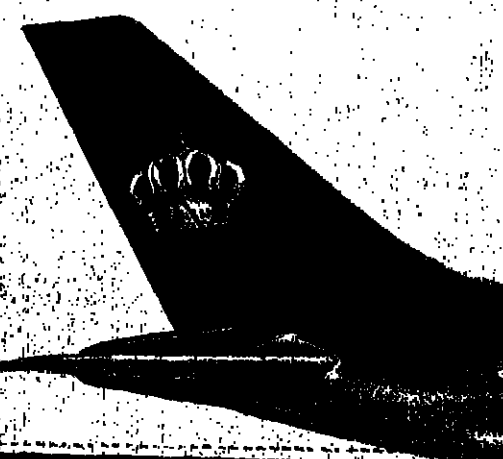
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By Shirley Rizvi

Living with the Ganges through millennia



Swimmers at Banaras captured by Raghubir Singh on camera taking an exhilarating plunge into the Ganges

INDIA in all its complexity, ritual and mystery is encapsulated by one word *Ganga* — the mighty river that is revered as a mother figure, its powerful flow seen as a divine manifestation of all aspects of being from birth to death and beyond.

Those who have sought the blessings of the *Ganga* (Ganges for non-Indians) relate a feeling of great spiritual elation — a numbness of the body and a transportation of the mind. Many carry memories of the experience to their death.

Most spiritually minded Indians irrespective of creed and station in life look forward to at least one pilgrimage to the river. Photographer Raghubir Singh is among them and has returned again and again since 1965 recording his experiences from a sensitive view of his camera.

The Ganges, published by Thames and Hudson, is a color-washed journey along the sacred river from its source in the snow covered mountains of the Himalayas through the villages, towns and sprawling cities of the great plains to the gigantic deltas of the Bay of Bengal.

Evocative pictures complemented by absorbing commentaries by Singh capture the essence of this great river and the many aspects of life along its banks.

To understand why the waters of the Ganges evoke so much spiritual inspiration one must follow it back to its source and the time when mountains, rivers and other aspects of nature were explained as symbols of power and life. During that ancient period several thousands of years ago India's sacred geography was conceived and, being among the few countries in the world with an unbroken cultural tradition, India is one place where those ancient beliefs still form an essential part of the day to day pursuit of life.

Starting in the realms of the celestial world of "spiritual wisdom and knowledge" on Mount Kailas, the Ganges emerges from Lake Manasarovar which literally means the Lake of the Mind. Encircling the heavenly peaks of Lord Brahma three times it flows through "the paradise of Siva" before carrying its ancient influences across the plains of India.

The powerful living mythology that surrounds the river has touched not only the Hindus but also believers of other religions. The early Christian fathers called it "the Phison, the foremost of the four rivers of Eden." The last photo in Singh's album shows a Muslim at prayer facing Mecca across the Ganges' vast horizon.

Indian civilization is so closely

linked to the ancient epic poems and sacred texts of Hinduism that the mountain, plain and river have become the "real protagonists" and metaphors of life — constant yet touching the ever changing patterns of human existence.

In a span of just over two decades Raghubir Singh has witnessed many changes taking place in the towns and villages along the banks of the Ganges.

The inspiring route of the trekkers to Gangotri in the Himalayas is no longer a peaceful mountain trail. Luxury smitten pilgrims have found easier alternatives to braving the mountain slopes on foot. Cars and vans packed with families of the upper middle class and the rich now cramp the narrow mountain roads in search of spiritual fulfillment.

The villages in the plains of Uttar Pradesh are taking up their ranks in the new technological order. In 1970, Singh recalls Chandravati had two temples made of bricks and mortar. All the houses were of mud and tiles. Today 75 per cent of the houses are brick and, when Raghubir recorded it, the village boasted one color television set, 29 black and white sets, two scooters, one motorbike, two tractors and two taxis. It is also among the first villages to receive electricity.

But devotion to the river still holds ground here. The two Jain temples draw influential pilgrims

from all over India who are presiding government officials for an electrified river front where pilgrims can camp during the two festivals each year.

Melas or festivals take place all along the river and the main one can sometimes attract as many as 20 million people. The first eyewitness account of a festival at Prayag dates from the 7th century AD. The Chinese scholar Hsien Tsang who travelled through India records half a million people participating in the bathing rituals that took place over a period of

74 days. Today the pilgrimage takes between 15 to 45 days. The most famous of these festivals takes place at Banaras, where the waters of the Ganges are believed to cleanse both soul and body.

This holiest of Indian cities marks the point of ultimate spiritual fulfillment for most Indians. "It is a maze and filter which transforms every change and challenge, adapting it to the traditional way of life says Singh.

In recent years environmentalists have carefully touched on the sensitive issue of pollution. Eve-

ry year more than 45,000 bodies are floated down the Ganges. Those who can afford it are given the full funeral rites on the traditional pyres with their ashes being sprinkled into the river. The belief that the waters of this mighty river has the power to free the dying from the cycle of rebirth makes it the ultimate dream of believers.

But the bodies are not the main pollutants. The blights of the 20th century have made their marks perhaps not in a spiritual sense but very much in a physical one. Over 100 million litres of waste a day pours into the river from the thousands of factories along its 1,600-mile bank.

Electric crematoria have appeared in the city but the funeral pyres, despite being more expensive still have their place in the traditions that remain impervious to change.

Like the mother figure that it is the Ganges it seems patiently watches, striking out when she thinks things have gone too far. Devastating floods that claim the lives of hundreds and sometimes thousands of people wreak havoc on vast areas. But despite the large-scale human tragedies that occur along the river, life always returns in a continuity of an ancient cycle.

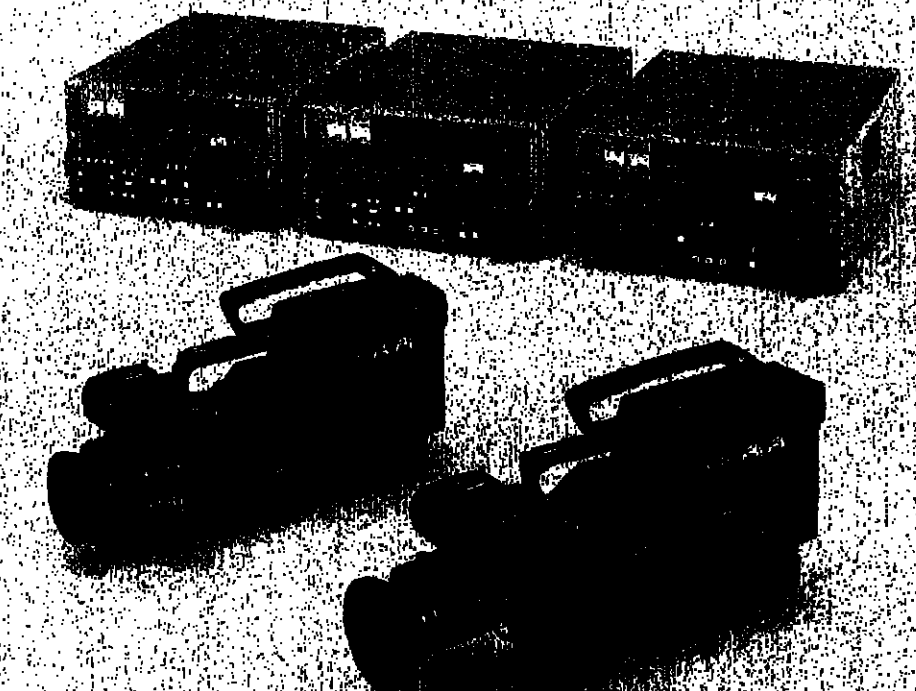
"I will always go back to it," says Raghubir Singh, "because it has led me through the whole panorama of India's life and culture, from the age of the Aryans to the age of the power plant. Yet when I return to it, one day in the future, will it be the *Mahabharata's* river of blood or the peaceful river of every caste and creed?"

THE GANGES. By Raghubir Singh. Thames and Hudson. London. 190 pages. Hardback \$30.

Shirley Rizvi is the executive editor of Academic File.

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A Muslim boatman prays in the direction of Mecca on the mighty Ganges, near Char Island

Regional Business Report



Middle East orders \$35bn in arms

MILITARY equipment and arms worth between \$35 billion and \$45 billion have been ordered by Middle Eastern countries since Iraq invaded Kuwait, according to the Saferworld Foundation, a think tank and pressure group based in Britain.

It suggests in a report published last week that "unless the major powers and the countries of the Middle East learn the lessons of history and work to reduce and control arms transfers to the Middle East, the hopes for the peace process, currently so high, may disappear beneath an arms race that perpetuates instability, conflict and bloodshed in the Middle East."

Saferworld says the US has received orders worth about \$28.3 billion, principally from Saudi Arabia, which has ordered more than \$17 billion worth of equipment.

The 1992 "Javit's list," which sets out the US's expected arms exports for the year, predicts sales worth \$35 billion, mostly to countries in the Middle East.

The report says the US government "has helped its manufacturers by providing Desert Storm veterans to recount their experiences at arms fairs, such as the Paris Air Show. The Pentagon has also provided equipment used in the Gulf War free of charge, saving manufacturers hundreds of thousands of dollars in leasing and transport costs."

Saferworld says the UK has received orders worth about \$4 bil-

lion in which Tornados, Hawks and other aircraft figure prominently. "Russia, Germany, North Korea, China, Czechoslovakia, France and other industrialized countries have all received orders from the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, Israel, Kuwait, Iran, Turkey, Egypt and Syria lead the importing nations."

Kuwait has allocated an extra KD 3.5 billion (\$12 billion) to spend on buying advanced weapons and building up its armed forces over the next 12 years, Reuters reported from Kuwait.

A decree from the emir, issued last week, said the government was authorized to draw the KD 3.5 billion from its general reserves and add it to money already allocated to bolster Kuwait's defences.

"The Higher Defence Council is authorized to allocate the sums needed for every financial year for 12 years beginning from the financial year 1992/1993," the decree said.

"Those sums which are not spent in every year will be transferred to the subsequent year."

It was not clear exactly what was meant by the amount already allocated for Kuwait's defence.

Economists said they believed money drawn from the KD 3.5 billion would most likely not be included in budget projections, but would be added to final accounts drawn up at the end of each fiscal year.

Kuwait raised defence spending in fiscal 1991/1992 five-fold from the previous year but the increase was mainly due to huge contributions towards the costs of allied forces which ended Iraq's

seven-month occupation.

Kuwait has not announced a defence allocation for its current 1992-1993 budget, which foresees a drop in total spending to KD 4 billion from an estimated KD 6.2 billion in 1991/1992.

But it has said non-recurring war costs would fall to KD 2.21 billion in 1992/1993 from KD 4.5 billion the previous year.

Diplomats say Kuwait's plans to overhaul its armed forces and buy hundreds of tanks, armored personnel carriers, helicopters, artillery and air defence systems are still being worked out.

No exact breakdown is available, but economists say the emirate's general reserves and overseas assets have dwindled to less than \$40 billion from \$100 billion before Iraq's invasion because of heavy Gulf War spending.

Israel denies talks on German loan guarantees

OFFICIALS in Bonn and occupied Jerusalem denied a German newspaper report that the two countries are conducting discreet talks on Israel's request for DM 10 billion (\$7 billion) in loan guarantees to facilitate immigrant absorption.

The report in the *Frankfurter Rundschau* said the two governments hope to finalize agreement on the loan guarantees before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visits Bonn in mid-September.

During Yitzhak Shamir's premiership, there were discussions between Bonn and the Israeli government about loan guarantees, but they did not get far. It was widely believed that Bonn, like the US, decided not to extend loan guarantees because of Shamir's settlement policies in the territories.

A source in Jerusalem, however, noted that while there were no talks now, Rabin would probably resubmit the request when he goes to Bonn.



Palestinians in the Gaza Strip pass a bulldozer removing a wall made of barrels that had been used to seal off a street. Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has ordered the army to remove some barriers from roads and alleys in Gaza

Turkey agrees power plant deal

TURKEY has agreed terms for a build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) coal-fired power plant, under a deal signed with a US consortium led by Trinity Partners International of Pennsylvania.

The privately-financed 237MW plant at Cankiri Orta, 130 miles from Ankara, is estimated to cost \$500 million including developing a nearby 100 million ton coal deposit.

Trinity Partners, with Pagro Power Alhstrom, will build and run the plant for 26 years under the BOT arrangement before handing over to Tek, the Turkish power utility.

The project, the first big infrastructure deal agreed by the government of Mr Suleyman Demirel, will encourage investors trying to get BOT proposals started.

Ankara is studying a similar arrangement for its city Metro. Lockheed has been negotiating a

BOT proposal for Istanbul Airport for two years. Thames Water, in a consortium with the local Gama group, is seeking agreement with Istanbul's water authority to take water from a proposed dam and pipeline project at Izmit.

Baghdad buys Australian wheat

IRAQ has used part of its gold reserves to buy about 900,000 tons of wheat from Australia since the end of the Gulf War. Mr Clinton Condon, chairman of the Australian Wheat Board said in Sydney. Mr Condon said Iraq used gold bullion to pay for most of the wheat, which was delivered in a number of shipments over the last 18 months. The deal would be worth about \$1.35 million at a price of \$150 per ton. Mr Condon said further sales to Iraq were expected.

Transport projects in Jordan

THREE Jordanian contacts have been won by Rendel Palmer & Triton. Two of them involve port installations and the third is for the Railway Corporation.

At Aqaba RPT has recently completed a study and conceptual lay-out for a multi-purpose berth for International Freight Services.

In a second assignment at Aqaba RPT is designing repair works, in association with a Jordanian company, Madl & Partners, for a phosphate berth which was struck by a ship last December.

The company has also been appointed by the Aqaba Railway Corporation to work on a World Bank-funded project. This entails the inspection of 2,000 tons of rail from British Steel, points and crossings from Balfour Betty Engineering, and timber sleepers in Singapore before shipment to Jordan.

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By Julian Ozzane

THE WORLD Bank may be surprised to learn that its model economic recovery program in Africa is described as "economic blah blah blah" by Ghana's president.

Flight-Li Jerry John Rawlings, 45, is more at home in the cockpit of a fighter-jet than articulating the principles of the structural adjustment program which has been adopted across the continent. But, in spite of his apparent contempt for economic theories and intellectuals, Rawlings has not wavered in his political support for tough and often unpopular reforms.

One of Africa's most dynamic leaders, Rawlings has ruled post-colonial Ghana, often uncomfortably, for the past 13 years — longer than anyone else. Since his first populist military coup in 1979 against a corrupt, army-led government, he has set Ghana back on the road to economic rectitude and political maturity — although not without abuses of human rights that he now refers to as "mistakes."

He has had to confront the problems facing other parts of Africa in the 1980s: marginalization, corruption, the fall-out from the end of the Cold War and external and internal pressures for democratization.

Having presided over reform of the economy, "JJ", or "The Chairman" as he is known, now faces a challenge equally demanding: the transition from the authoritarian, often idiosyncratic era of military rule to a multi-party democracy, culminating in presidential elections in November this year.

He is shy of publicity and foregoes interviews and rarely gives interviews. He spoke in his modest private quarters inside the white-washed, 16th-century, Danish-built castle which is home to Ghana's presidents. The Chairman, in a checked plaid shirt, jeans and army-green Reeboks, railed against his familiar targets — the hypocrisy of the "so-called ethics" of the US, the way the West has sponsored brutal African dictators like President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, and "the greedy consumerist attitude of Europeans" which was destroying the environment.

At times, he struggled to find the words for his emotional thoughts. But in an exceptional display of candor, he revealed the qualities which have made him popular. They include his acknowledgement of "his own limitations," his plain speaking and an element of playfulness, revealed by his production of a huge tiger's claw he cut from a tigers skin in an Ethiopian palace.

To many, Rawlings is an enigma — a firebrand socialist who has pursued one of the continent's most widely praised free-market economic reform programs, backed by aid from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Since 1983 he has backed a program of devaluation, trade liberalization, tight fiscal and monetary policy, and large reductions in the bloated bureaucracy. These policies have given Ghana an average real growth rate of 5 per cent a year, reduced inflation from an annual rate of 123 per cent in 1983 to 18 per cent last year, restored confidence and stimulated investment and the return of millions of dollars held overseas by Ghanaian nationals. Debt arrears of \$600m million were erased by 1990.

Part of the answer to the Rawlings riddle lies in the fact that he has been shrewd enough to ensure that management of the economy, which he admits he

does not fully understand, has been left to technocrats led by Dr Kwesi Boikwey, the finance minister, and including Dr Joe Abbey, the ambassador to Washington. "They are workers but they like to call themselves advisors," Rawlings jokes.

He has also shown a political commitment to reform. Rawlings believes that in Africa the alleviation of poverty can be achieved only through a lean, free-market economy, backed, at least in the short-term, by Western aid. Classical structural adjustment policies of devaluation, free-market liberalization and cutting of subsidies have redistributed wealth and promoted growth. They have released state resources for education, health and infrastructure, and shifted the terms of trade in favor of rural farmers who make up most of the population.

Rawlings said common sense dictated that he support economic reform. "What we are aiming for is the humanizing of capitalism... We have only done what is common sense to the ordinary person. Oppressed, poor people don't have to be told by foreigners and intellectuals about corruption, the price they have paid for their cocoa or bringing clean water to their villages." This commitment to "the people," combined with a reputation unsullied by charges of corruption, has made the program one of the most successful in the continent.

Rawlings' support for free-market policies, however, remains qualified, and he stresses that colonialism and the inequalities of the international economic order remain powerful constraints on Africa's development. He also frequently lashes out at the West, complaining about the way Africa has become marginalized and "ripped-off" by some foreign companies.

Many question whether, with these views, Rawlings can deepen the limited successes of the reform program, and move it forward to the next critical level. This requires a commitment to the private sector and foreign investment which would create self-sustainable growth without dependence on foreign aid.

In three months Rawlings will return the country to civilian rule for a second time. So far, he has remained mute over whether he will be a presidential candidate. "I have left it to God for guidance. That's what I tell the diplomats anyway," he said, chuckling.

However, having once before wrestled the country back from an incompetent civilian administration, he hopes that Ghanaians will avoid being badly served by politicians again. "The people have become a lot more defiant. You can't fool the people any more with sweet promises. Thank God for it. The politicians would be better talking about the reality of hardship ahead which faces us, instead of trying to con people."

If Rawlings decides to run against as-yet undeclared opponents, he will face severe criticism of his human rights record, which includes executions, kidnappings, arbitrary detention without trial and confiscation of property.

Jerry Rawlings

The riddle of 'The Chairman'



"What we are aiming for is the humanizing of capitalism...," Rawlings

The Chairman admits that human rights abuses have been committed during the past decade, but he says he is genuinely sorry for past excesses. "The hu-

manity of our revolution is that the politicians can come back and smear us. In the French revolution, they were beheaded. Our crime is our humanity."

This humanity is best illustrated by his background and character, rather than by his erratic and flamboyant economic and political philosophy. He recalled his childhood on the streets of Accra, where he got into "a lot of scrapes and whenever I heard a police siren my heart started pounding because I thought they were coming to get me."

During the interview, he prowled around his study which has two televisions so he can get CNN, C-Span and watch videos about acrobatic and formation jet-flying, his first recreational passion. But his ferocity crumbled as he got up to hug his wife and children and listen to a little lecture from Mrs Rawlings about kicking his heavy smoking habit.

Throughout his rule, he says, he has managed to make sure "the office doesn't take away my personal freedom." His bedroom is like a small workshop with tools spread out for building radio-controlled model aircraft. A punch bag hangs next to the dining table. He has made time for regular complex flying exercises, riding motorbikes and scuba-diving. Flying, he says, is the "ultimate challenge" and "anybody who does not enjoy these things does not get the best out of life."

If he stands and is defeated in the forthcoming elections, he says he will have to search for a job because "I have no money." But he says he might like to write a book on social psychology or become a preacher to continue his campaign against injustice. ■

Financial Times



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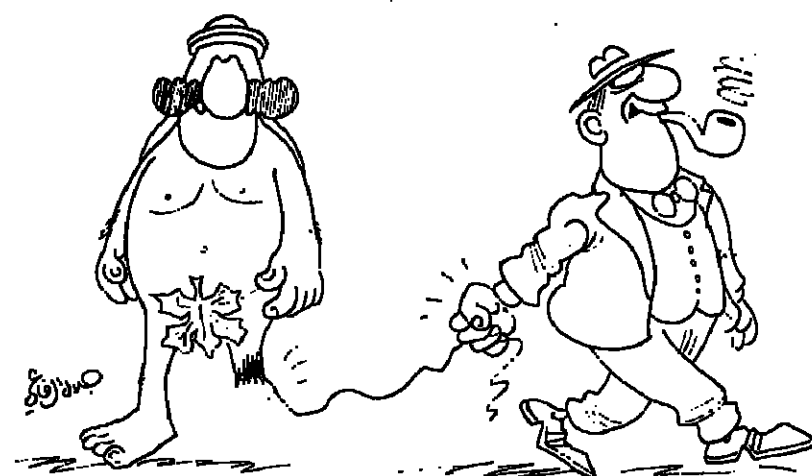
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Jalal Rifa'Ad-Dustour

Our Say....

Playing by the rules

WITH THE Royal seal endorsing the Parties Law, Jordan's young democracy received a fresh thrust that would set it apart from most countries of this region. But the law itself only provides the general framework for political pluralism to function. The success or failure of the coming phase will be determined by the maturity, responsibility and awareness of all Jordanians.

When His Majesty King Hussein was bed-ridden, his message to his people centered on the theme of democracy, not as a transition, but as a final goal leading to an environment where all Jordanians, regardless of their origin or beliefs, can live in freedom and justice.

The King's hope for the future of this country is today becoming a reality. In the past few years Jordanians were able to create some of the vehicles and tools of democratic transition, which included an elected parliament that has bridged the gap between the past and the future. Jordan's record on human rights is today among the best in the Third World, its press is relatively free — it is waiting for a new law, which in spite of some shortcomings is miles ahead of the existing one — and is vigorously working to institutionalize its economic, social and political foundations.

Political pluralism can only thrive when people are allowed to express their ideological beliefs. This part of the world has seen enough militant clashes of adverse ideologies which often resulted in innocent bloodletting, brutal takeover of power and authoritarian governments. Today Jordan provides a rare example of peaceful competition of ideas, where people have the final say on the way they want to be governed, and where the handing of power is done peacefully and democratically.

But democracy has its shortcomings too and recent history is ample with examples where democracy allowed the upbringing of its own rivals which ultimately brought its own demise. Lebanon is the closest example to home. No democracy is immune. The only prevention to chaos, military rule and dictatorship is people's respect to the rules of the game. In Jordan those rules are outlined by the Constitution and the National Charter.

Jordanians today have an historic opportunity to lead their country into a new age, where societies maintain the necessary mechanisms to guarantee safe transfer of power away from fascism, racism and all the negative isms that threaten to destabilize modern societies. Jordan is no exception. In our effort to bring about the dawn of a new renaissance on Jordan and the Arab world, we should be aware of the vulnerabilities of democracy. Jordan is not an island and while democracy thrives in our midst, it suffocates in neighboring countries.

The coming weeks and months will witness the birth of new political parties, each reflecting certain ideological preferences. In the process many parties will fall and succumb to a volatile political stage. In the end a handful of political parties will survive. This political evolution will be another landmark for this country and for the rest of the Arabs. Today we leave an era behind us and welcome a new one. In the final analysis what makes or breaks our transition to democracy is our sense of citizenship and civil responsibility. We hope all 65 or more parties about to sprout will at least agree to this.

When science is the movie star

By Timothy Ferris

THE FIRST thing to be said about the director Errol Morris's "Brief History of Time," the film version of the famed physicist Stephen Hawking's bestselling book about black holes and the origin and destiny of the universe, is similar to what Samuel Johnson said of the dancing dog: one is impressed not so much that the thing has been done well as that it has been done at all.

"A Brief History of Time" is, after all, a non-fiction feature film about science — a real movie, in other words, shot on film in a wide-screen format, meant to be shown in theaters, about one of the least popular subjects in all show business. Feature films on science are so rare that you can make a trivia game out of trying to remember their titles. (Here are two) "The Hellstrom Chronicle," a 1971 film, produced by David Wolper and directed by David Seltzer, in which an actor posing as an entomologist told creepy tales about insects, and "The Secret Life of Plants," a 1979 pseudoscience curiosity from Paramount remembered principally for the Steve Wonder score).

Scientists crop up with some regularity as characters in fiction films, where their customary function is to serve as billboard-depth emblems of one or another frailty. They're befuddled ("Honey, I Shrunk the Kids"), insensitive ("Close Encounters of the Third Kind"), heartless (literally so in "Alien," where the ship's scientist turns out to be an Android) or so puffed up with Faustian hubris that they go too far ("Altered States," countless horror films).

In the 1930s and 40s, Hollywood made a handful of movies that tried to convey some sense of how real scientists do science — among them "The Story of Louis Pasteur," "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet" and "Edison, the Man," starring Spencer Tracy. In 1962 John Huston sought to revive the genre with "Freud," for which Jean-Paul Sartre wrote the first draft of the screenplay. "Freud" flopped, and the science trend, or what there was of it, has never revived.

All of which makes the release of "A Brief History of Time" something of an event.

If any factual science story can capture a wide audience, surely this is it. As millions of people know by now — among them the five million who have bought a copy of his book — Stephen Hawking has blazed a meteoric career in theoretical physics despite being almost totally paralyzed (He is a victim of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, sometimes called Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressive disease of the central nervous system). Unable to speak, he communicates by tapping a computer key with one finger; sentences compiled in this painstaking way are then enunciated by a voice-replacement device.

Witty, outgoing and tough as nails, Sir Stephen holds Isaac Newton's old chair as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge. He travels constantly, publishes prolifically, stays in touch with an unusually wide circle of friends, is father to

three children (he has recently separated from Jane Wilde, his wife of nearly 25 years) and basks in the kind of fame normally reserved for movie stars. Whole orchestras of intellectual and emotional resonances may be invoked when such a man — who 30 years ago was told by doctors he had less than 30 months to live — starts musing about the meaning of time.

Errol Morris (recruited by Steven Spielberg, who later bowed out of the project) would seem to be an ideal director for "Brief History." He likes a challenge and he possesses the unblinking vision required of a film maker to lead an audience into unfamiliar and possibly unwelcome terrain. Mr. Morris's award-winning documentary "The Thin Blue Line" so effectively presented the specifics of a Texas homicide case that it prompted the release of a convicted murderer.

"Brief History," which won the grand jury prize for documentary film making at this year's Sundance Festival, is similarly rapt. When Dr. Hawking's computer-generated voice-over intones the words, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" the audience is treated to a startlingly clear close-up shot of a chicken — a signature touch that promises further surprises.

Dr. Hawking's speciality is the physics of black holes — collapsed stars with gravitational fields so intense they can swallow up light — and one might expect, "Brief History" to sport a realistic special effect showing a black hole, surrounded by its shimmering lens of warped space. What the film delivers, instead, are static black-and-white charcoal drawings of a sinkhole, over which are imposed computer-generated images of pellet-like subatomic particles (and, in one instance, a Rolex watch, to show that time stands still at a black hole's edge).

Mr. Morris conveys something of what Dr. Hawking thinks about black hole evaporation, imaginary time and curved space. But for most viewers, these exotic ideas will be overshadowed by the human drama of the great physicist's triumph over adversity.

Given the singular nature of Dr. Hawking's story, "Brief History" seems unlikely to provoke any broad resurgence of interest in scientists as fit subjects for nonfiction films. Instead, it tends to confirm his rather lonely status as a modern oracle — a remote figure who speaks in riddles, living proof that only a superhuman intellect can make sense of modern physics.

The film's final shot is a bluescreen matte of the back of Dr. Hawking's wheelchair (adorned by a little tin license plate reading "Stephen") moving through a field of stars. On one level, Mr. Morris is being wry: we're finally seeing the clinched image, a staple of "Star Trek" and "Nightline," that one expects from a science documentary.

But the shot is held for so long that it becomes a disquieting reminder that to the isolation imposed on Dr. Hawking by his acuity and his physical disability has now been added a third circle of apatness, one imposed by fame.

New York Times



Global waste — A whopping new earner

By Maryam Schiller

UNTIL RECENTLY the encroaching crisis of pollution invoked images of death, destruction and desolation. Today it is the source of \$200 billion revenue for multinational companies with headquarters in Europe, North America and Japan.

What has caused this dramatic turn around from the period, only a few years ago, when factories say pollution control as a liability and fines for illegal waste disposal as the fastest way out of business? The drastic change, and the mind-boggling statistic, is the result of two events — the industry coming to terms with pollution control as an unavoidable necessity and then going in to make a hefty profit out of it.

Global markets for goods and services that help with control of various kinds of pollution are worth \$200 billion now and will be worth a lot more before the end of the century.

Equipment accounts for more than three-quarters of that amount, according to Candice Stevens, an OECD economist.

"The world market for environmental equipment and services is forecast to increase at an average annual rate of 5-6 per cent per year to \$300 billion by the year 2000," she says in an OECD Observer study.

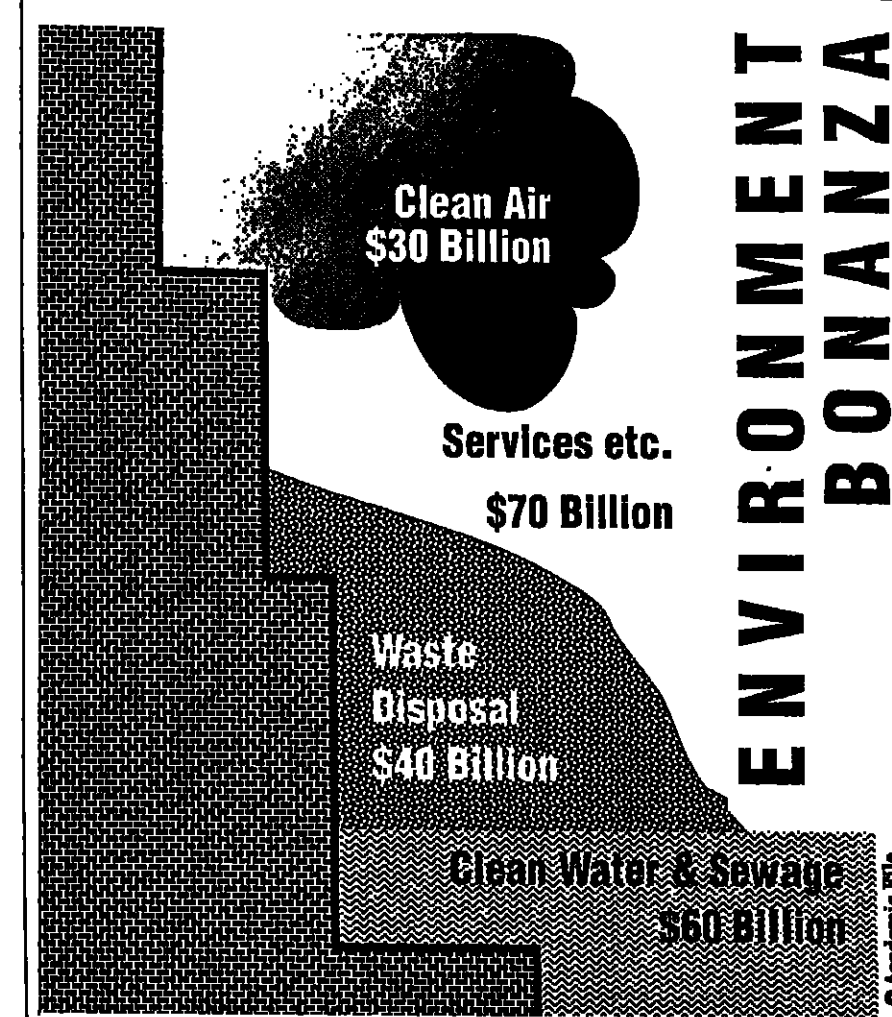
"This volume can be compared in size to that for aerospace products, with markets estimated at \$200 billion, and chemical products, calculated to be worth \$500 billion."

She voices the views of many in the European scientific community that, in the West at least, environmental services are destined to increase in importance. As the pressure for cleaner technologies grows, more engineering and analytical expertise will be on demand.

The next obvious question is: where does that leave the developing world with its antiquated technologies and empty coffers? There is as yet no answer to that, not at least one that comes to the minds of European decision-makers.

Pollution 'trouble shooters' are the modern-day version of pest control crews although those, too, seem to be in business in Europe's poverty stricken urban ghettos infested by sturdier varieties of vermin.

These money-spinning advisory groups do virtually everything from nudging



firms towards best available control technologies to monitoring their compliance with anti-pollution laws.

The OECD states, i.e. the richest countries of Europe, North America and Japan, account for about 85 per cent of the world market for environmental equipment and services. What these nations buy often reflects the current national preoccupation, such as Japan's big spending on cleaning the air in its cities and the US allocations for getting rid of waste.

"The amount spent to control pollution is generally a reflection of the volume of industrial activity and the nature of environmental policies and regulations in different countries," says Candice Stevens. But this

may not yet be true of the industrializing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where pollution control still is one of the lowest of priorities.

Today's largest and most technically advanced markets and industries for pollution control are in countries where environmental regulations are the toughest. Although industry and local government are primary consumers of environmental products, it is central governments that provide the main stimulus: a simply change in regulation can create markets for new products and technologies as easily as it can eliminate existing ones.

German expertise in equipment to treat water and effluent, for example, is derived

in large part from early, and stringent, national legislation intended to control water pollution. The Japanese air pollution control industry expanded rapidly in the 1970s and early 1980 as a result of increased domestic demand, prompted by a change in the law, for equipment to desulphurize flue gas.

In the Netherlands in the early 1980s, a national effort to tackle land contamination led to the development of advanced technologies for 'soil remediation.' In the United States laws on cleaning up toxic waste sites created a huge market in technologies to deal with hazardous wastes.

The largest share of spending, up to 65 per cent, still goes to treat water and effluents, and this is where the North and the South may meet to transfer these vital technologies to the poorer states.

Clean water is the single most urgent issue for a huge chunk of humanity, and future collaboration between the two sides may rest on the willingness of the rich to share, at affordable prices, equipment and services that will help improve the global environment. There is of course the risk that transfer of these vital technologies to the developing world may unleash yet another cycle of indebtedness, for which the poor are least prepared.

The environment industry includes both multinationals and small entrepreneurial firms whose task simply is to transport and recycle consumer waste. Of the 30,000 firms in North America, 20,000 in Europe and 9,000 in Japan involved in the environment business and employment 1.7 million people, many are small enterprises that are obvious models for similar ventures in the Third World.

But will there be enough incentives for environmental industries to take root in the developing world? It's difficult to see how pollution control in the richer states can be meaningful without matching measures in the poor ones, many of whom are neighbours, such as in the Mediterranean, East Asia and southern United States.

Western nations, however, are too preoccupied with cleaning up their own patch to worry about their backyard, or the poorer polluted pastures beyond.

Maryam Schiller is a writer and researcher based in Geneva.

By Phyllida Brown

HIV-2, THE second human immunodeficiency virus, has received only a fraction of the attention devoted to its more widespread cousin HIV-1. HIV-2 is endemic mainly in west Africa, whereas HIV-1 is found on every inhabited continent. Yet the lesser-known virus merits serious study for two reasons, say researchers. First some 100 million people are potentially at risk from HIV-2 infection. Secondly, a better understanding of the differences between HIV-1 and HIV-2 could help answer important questions about mother-to-child transmission, vaccine development and disease progression for both viruses.

In the past six months, discussion at two scientific meetings has overturned the early perception that HIV-2 was a "harmless" virus. It is now clear that like HIV-1, it causes AIDS, although probably much more slowly. Recently, researchers taking blood samples have detected antibodies that react to both viruses. These could indicate that the people concerned are infected with both viruses, or that they are infected with a recombinant virus, or a third distinct virus. The findings may be important for vaccine developers.

HIV-2 was discovered in Senegal in 1985. Since then, seroprevalence surveys have detected it in at least a dozen West African countries, including: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria. The virus is also present in Portugal and France, and has been reported in Brazil, India, Sweden, the United States and occasionally in east

Africa. The vast majority of cases outside west Africa are found in people who have had connections with the region.

The prevalence of HIV-2 is highest in Guinea-Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, according to data presented at the November 1991 Vth International Conference on AIDS in Africa in Dakar, Senegal. Among prostitutes and men who attend STD clinics, the prevalence of infection is about 10 times that of the general population, reflecting the same pattern of spread as HIV-1. In Senegal, about 8% of prostitutes are infected and in Burkina Faso, about 18%. In Guinea-Bissau, infection rates in the general population are also high, around 9%. Infection is focused in districts where significant numbers of local women have become commercial sex workers.

Like HIV-1, HIV-2 is transmitted through sexual contact and in blood. It appears to be much less readily transmissible from mother to child than HIV-1. Although a few infected children have been reported, they seem to be rarer than would be expected for the number of infected women, of childbearing age. However, Souleymane Mboup from the University of Dakar told the conference that too few

studies have been conducted for firm conclusions to be drawn.

Between sexual partners, HIV-2 is clearly less transmissible than HIV-1. By comparing the rate of new infections per year in groups of people with HIV-2 and HIV-1, Mboup and his colleagues calculated that the risk of becoming infected with HIV-1 is about three times that for HIV-2 per sexual contact. Phyllis Kanki of Harvard University suggests that immune responses to the viruses may differ, although very little is known about how HIV-2 may also infect CD4 + AT cells less readily than does HIV-1 says Kanki, because it binds less efficiently than HIV-1 with the receptor-molecular CD4 on the cell surface. People infected with HIV-2 have lower levels of virus in their blood-stream than those infected with HIV-1, which is consistent with a lower transmission rate and a longer latent period of infection. As the level of virus rises, a person's health deteriorates and they become more infectious.

HIV-1 is now making rapid inroads into the areas where HIV-2 was formerly predominant. Between 1985 and 1991, the prevalence of HIV-2 has not increased significantly while HIV-1 prevalence has increased ninefold in some areas. Kevin de

HIV-2: Slower, still deadly

Cock of Retro-CI, an AIDS research project in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, told a meeting at the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine in London in May that the prevalence of HIV in men with STDs had risen from 24% to 34% between 1990 and 1991, due to HIV-1. It is not clear what this implies for the relative importance of the two viruses in the region in future.

HIV-2 seems at first sight to have been present in humans for longer than HIV-1. On average, women with HIV-2 are at least 10 years older than women with HIV-1. The peak prevalence of HIV-2 are at least 10 years older than women with HIV-1. The peak prevalence of HIV-2 in Dakar and two other Senegalese towns, Ziguinchor and Kaolack, was in people 55 years old or more. By contrast, HIV-1 is most common in people between 15 and 40. The other possible explanation for this difference in age patterns is simply that it takes longer to get infected with HIV-2.

Sebastian Lucas, a pathologist at the University of London who recently worked at Retro-CI in Abidjan, told the London meeting that autopsies of patients with AIDS showed the same broad spectrum of disease, whether caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2. The commonest manifestation of AIDS was tuberculosis.

The origin of HIV-2, and its geographical focus in west Africa, is difficult to explain. Genetically the virus resembles the simian immunodeficiency virus, SIV, much more closely than it resembles HIV-1. Designing a vaccine against HIV-2 may be easier than for HIV-1, because laboratory monkeys can be experimentally infected with the virus, unlike HIV-1.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Expo au CCF

Les Droits de l'homme s'affichent

Au total 66 affichistes du monde entier livrent leurs interprétations artistiques des Droits de l'homme. Des œuvres exposées au Centre culturel français, tout le mois de septembre

"C'EST UN THEME qui est toujours d'actualité, peut-être plus encore dans cette région où de l'autre côté de la ligne de cessez-le-feu, dans les Territoires occupés, les droits de l'homme sont bafoués" lance Noël Favrelière, directeur du Centre culturel français d'Amman. Une manière de justifier l'exposition d'affiches sur les Droits de l'homme, qui se tiendra dans l'enceinte du Centre, du lundi 7 au dimanche 27 septembre. C'est archi-connu: les deux textes qui sont à la base de l'idée universelle sont d'origine française. Il s'agit des Déclarations des droits de l'homme et du citoyen de 1789 et de 1793. Deux morceaux de papier qui ont éclairé des générations entières.

Le monde et les Déclarations des droits de l'homme, les Déclarations des droits de l'homme dans le monde. C'est à partir de ces deux idées simples que le projet a vu le jour. Depuis, il a donné lieu à des centaines d'expositions à travers le monde. L'apartheid, la hantise de la guerre, l'enfermement, l'urgence d'une prise de conscience écologique... Autant de sujets sensibles questionnés par 66 affichistes. Cette exposition traduit-elle le côté donneur de leçons des Français? Pas du tout. "Il ne s'agit pas de cela", affirme Noël Favrelière, ce n'est pas une question de leçons... Mais tout de même, il faut rappeler que c'est en France que les Droits de l'homme ont vu le jour". Et de préciser: "N'oublions pas que les auteurs des affiches viennent du monde entier".

Depuis la révolution française, l'idée des droits de l'homme a fait son chemin. En France tout d'abord... Tomi Ungerer, affichiste d'origine alsacienne, que son "bulletin" scolaire d'autrefois, définissait comme "pervers et subversif" choisit le thème de l'égalité entre l'homme et la femme. Débudé, pendu aux deux bras d'une vieille balance, les bras des deux sexes sont, exactement, le même poids. "Les hommes naissent et meurent égaux", précise la lé-



Savignac, avocat des Droits de l'homme

gende.

Autre artiste hexagonal, "parmi les plus grands affichistes publicitaires" selon le directeur du CCF: Raymond Savignac. Celui-ci nous propose une Marianne qui s'envole pour aller prêcher la bonne parole des Droits de l'homme. Savignac est connu pour la réalisation des décors et costumes de l'Avare de Molière à la Comédie Française, pour un album, "l'affiche de A à Z", et une bonne trentaine d'expositions. Roland Topor, dessinateur et écrivain français d'origine polonaise, revendique le "droit à la paresse".

Parmi les étrangers, Tartakover nous présente l'affiche d'un juif qui dénonce ce qui se passe dans son pays. Un soldat palestinien, armé d'un pistolet-mitrailleur, se retourne et lance un regard caché à une Palestinienne d'un certain âge. Le Polonais Jan Lenica dépeint un paysage apocalyptique où se mêle le rouge et le noir. Des mains sque-

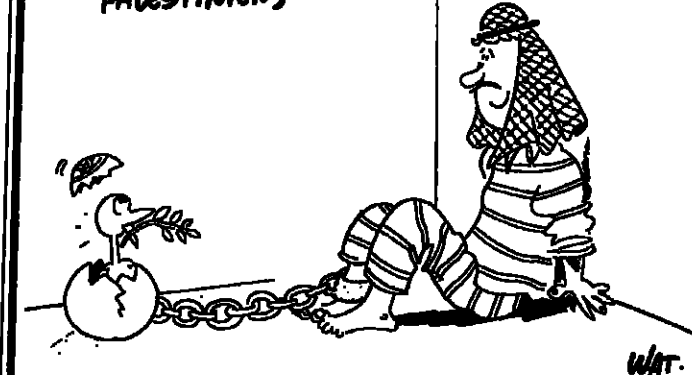
lettiques émergent d'une mer sur laquelle flotte une bouteille. Celle des droits de l'homme.

Le Japonais Koichi Sato choisit le thème de l'apartheid et se contente de montrer un fond qui passe du blanc au noir et vice-versa. Effet symbolique garanti. Yoshitake Sugimoto, autre artiste venant du soleil levant préfère utiliser l'humour. Son affiche représente un personnage en costume cravate avec une tête en forme de sens interdit. "Défense d'entrer", dit la légende.

Chaque année le rapport d'Amnesty International dessine la géographie de l'atteinte aux Droits de l'homme. Le non-respect des libertés fondamentales semble aller de pair avec l'inflation des discours et des chartes en tout genre. Selon Noël Favrelière, "les hommes valent ce que valent leurs droits; et les pays valent ce que valent les droits des hommes qui y vivent".

Michel Armand

LIBÉRATION DE PRISONNIERS PALESTINIENS



War.



Il va mieux!

LE ROI HUSSEIN, 56 ans, est en bonne voie de rétablissement. La preuve: sa Majesté a rencontré mardi à Washington la délégation jordanienne aux pourparlers de paix. A cette occasion, le roi a exhorté ses négociateurs à poursuivre les discussions sur la base de la position jordanienne. Objectif de taille: établir une paix juste et durable au Proche-Orient.

La délégation a rendu visite au roi dans sa résidence de Washington, où il se repose depuis sa sortie, samedi dernier, de la clinique Mayo dans le Minnesota. Dans cet établissement, le roi Hussein a subi une opération, afin d'extraire une tumeur cancéreuse logée dans la voie urinaire. Une ablation du rein gauche a dû être effectuée afin d'empêcher la progression de la maladie. L'ensemble de la délégation, Abdel Salam El Majali en tête, a félicité le souverain hachémite pour le succès de cette intervention chirurgicale avant de lui souhaiter un prompt rétablissement.

Le roi a rassuré la délégation quant à son état de santé. Le souverain a précisé qu'il reprendrait peu à peu des forces. Le roi Hussein a déclaré aux représentants de la délégation qu'il était touché par la solidarité du peuple jordanien. Le roi a reçu cette semaine de nombreux témoignages de sympathie, en particulier de son voisin saoudien.

A Amman, le Prince héritier Hassan a reçu un groupe de personnalités jordaniennes de retour de Washington. Dr Abdel Latif Arabiyah, chef de cette délégation, et Président de la chambre des députés, a confirmé le succès de l'intervention chirurgicale.

Le roi Hussein devra subir des examens de santé tous les trois ou six mois. Ces derniers seront effectués en Jordanie. Le souverain est attendu à Amman dans les jours qui viennent.

Francis Mazoyer

Lutte

Mobilisation générale contre le cancer

Un chiffre inquiétant: 1700 nouveaux cas ont été recensés l'année passée! La Jordanie va créer un Centre pour le traitement du cancer et organiser une grande campagne contre ce fléau!

LA MALADIE n'est pas une fatalité. Le cancer ne doit pas faire exception à la règle. Répandu dans le monde entier, il apporte en Jordanie son lot de souffrances et de larmes. Parce qu'il peut frapper n'importe qui, sans aucune distinction de race, de religion ou de classe, il faut se mobiliser.

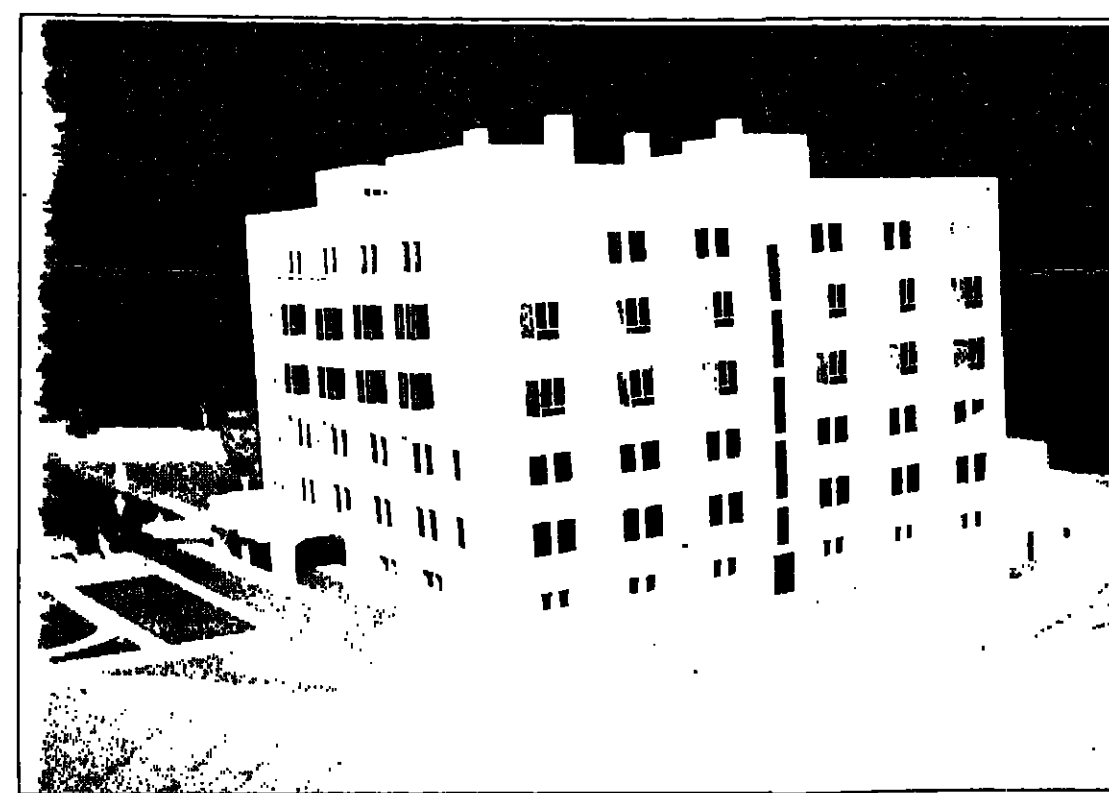
Les médecins jordaniens luttent tous les jours contre cette maladie, ce fléau. Mais ils doivent disposer de moyens considérables. Dans tous les sens du terme. D'autant plus qu'une augmentation importante du nombre de cancers en Jordanie a fait, ces derniers temps, la une des journaux. La semaine passée, lors d'une conférence de presse de la "General Union of Voluntary Societies" (GUVS) qui regroupe l'ensemble des associations de bienfaisance du pays, le directeur de l'hôpital Al-Bashir, docteur Samir Kayed, annonçait que 1214 nouveaux cas de cancer avaient été enregistrés pour l'année 1991.

Chiffres inquiétants

Le docteur Ghassan Farah, qui exerce à l'hôpital universitaire, ne tient pas à dramatiser la situation. Il confirme l'augmentation du nombre de cancers et l'estime même supérieure au chiffre communiqué par le docteur Kayed. Il n'hésite pas à avancer le chiffre inquiétant de 1700 cas! Mais Ghassan Farah pense pouvoir l'expliquer logiquement: "La population jordanienne est jeune, 70% des Jordaniens ont moins de 30 ans. Mais l'espérance de vie moyenne s'est accrue, passant de 38 ans dans les années 1950 à 65 ans de nos jours. Or, le cancer touche dans 85% des cas des personnes âgées de plus de 35 ans".

Vivant plus longtemps, les Jordaniens ont donc statistiquement plus de risque d'être atteints. D'où l'augmentation des cas de cancer enregistrés ces dernières années.

Autre raison: susceptible d'expliquer ce phénomène, toujours selon le docteur Farah: une alimentation peu équilibrée. Les habitudes alimentaires des Jordaniens ont changé. Mais pas forcément en bien, puisque la nourriture est devenue très riche en graisses, grande responsable de cancer. Sans compter le "réflexe-cigarette", trop largement répandu parmi les habitants du Royaume. La sédentarisation et l'urbanisation sont également deux facteurs aggravants. "Aucune étude à grande échelle n'a été pratiquée en Jordanie jusqu'à



La maquette du Centre Amal

présent, confie le docteur Farah, mais nous savons, et l'expérience des pays industrialisés l'a démontré, que le cancer est plus répandu dans les villes. Ce n'est qu'une tendance pour l'instant en Jordanie, mais d'après nos propres recherches, elle semble se confirmer".

Le docteur Ghassan Farah s'intéresse plus particulièrement au cancer du sein, l'un des plus communs chez les femmes dans le monde entier. Il a recensé au moins 300 cas pour la seule année 1991. D'après lui, un seul mot d'ordre s'impose: la prévention. "Un cancer du sein traité au stade premier de la maladie ne nécessitera qu'une simple intervention chirurgicale ne touchant que la tumeur elle-même. Au stade trois, il faudra également enlever le sein malade et la patiente devra faire de la chimio. Au stade quatre, on ne pourra plus rien sauver".

La prévention, c'est facile, c'est pas cher et ça peut rapporter gros!

Autrement dit, la prévention, c'est facile, c'est pas cher et ça peut rapporter gros! Le docteur Farah fait partie d'une association dont le but principal est d'informer la population sur le cancer: la "Jordanian Cancer Society" (JCS). Avec une centaine de membres et une petite équipe de neuf personnes, la JCS édite des brochures. De véritables ouvrages de vulgarisation sur le phénomène méconnu. L'association organise également des actions ponctuelles de grande

envoie. La dernière en date: une marche organisée le 15 novembre dernier. But de l'opération: collecter des fonds pour mettre en circulation, même dans les endroits les plus reculés du pays, des centres itinérants de dépistage du cancer.

Des ateliers de formation sont également organisés. La semaine dernière, les responsables des centres médicaux de toute la Jordanie ont été sensibilisés au problème de l'auto-examen en vue d'un dépistage précoce du cancer du sein. Par la suite, chacun devra informer les femmes qui visiteront leur centre sur cette technique qui a déjà fait ses preuves.

Mais un grand projet est en passe d'être réalisé. La Jordanie disposera bientôt d'un Centre ultra-moderne pour lutter contre le cancer. Le Centre Amal (ce qui signifie espoir en arabe) est actuellement en construction. Sa

taire général de la GUVS. La construction et surtout l'équipement du centre sont financés par plusieurs sources: le gouvernement, des sociétés publiques et privées, des compagnies d'assurance... D'après M. Wardam, le coût total s'élèverait à quelque 17 millions de JD et les frais de fonctionnement annuels à près de 2 ou 3 millions de JD.

En ce qui concerne le personnel, le Centre fera appel aux services locaux qui ne manquent pas, à l'intérieur du pays ou à l'étranger. Certains médecins jordaniens travaillant depuis de longues années en occident ont déjà répondu à l'appel de la GUVS. "Les responsables de la mise en place de ce Centre doivent impérativement consulter les professionnels pour donner le maximum d'atouts à ce Centre-pilote", fait remarquer le docteur Ghassan Farah. "Nous savons mieux que quiconque ce dont nous aurons besoin quand nous travaillerons au Centre Amal".

Pour que chacun se sente concerné, une semaine nationale contre le cancer aura lieu du 2 au 9 octobre 1992. Temps forts de cette opération: une marche de soutien, des animations régionales pendant toute la semaine et un spectacle auquel participeront les plus grands artistes locaux. Le clou de la semaine aura lieu le dernier jour, avec l'opération "Frappe à la porte", un Téléthon, un match de football et un dîner de gala. Les organisateurs de cette semaine nationale contre le cancer espèrent recueillir un million de JD qui aideront à financer le Centre Amal.

Michèle Rieux

L'EDITO

De Amine Chablon

Conciliation!

AMMAN a été tout au long de cette semaine le théâtre d'une rencontre presque inespérée entre les pays de l'Asie occidentale. Onze d'entre eux ont répondu à l'appel de la CESAO (Commission Economique et Sociale des Nations Unies pour l'Asie Occidentale) pour débattre de la situation économique et sociale dans une région épuisée par la crise économique et politique.

Quasi impossible à envisager, ne serait-ce que deux semaines auparavant, ce meeting nous aura permis de voir un Samal Majid Faraj, ministre irakien du Plan, présider devant un parterre regroupant Saoudiens, Bahreïnais, Omanais, Qataris...

Des pays autrefois en guerre se sont réunis pour parler d'autres événements: conflits, cette fois économiques et sociaux. Ironie de l'Histoire que de voir les pays du Golfe côte-à-côte avec l'Irak se préparer ensemble pour faire face aux défis lancés par le Grand marché européen.

En suivant le débat, certains n'en croyaient pas leurs oreilles. Les termes "coopération", "intégration économique", "position arabe commune" n'ont cessé de revenir dans les interventions des représentants des monarchies du Golfe. De même pour les discours des délégués de pays pro-Saddam Hussein.

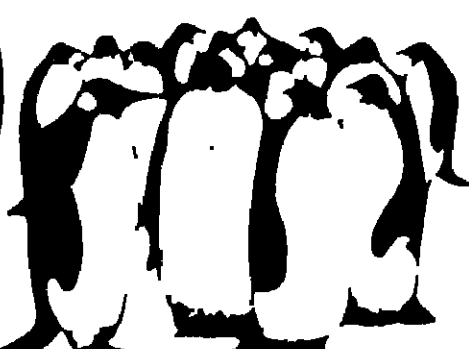
L'absence d'organisation régionale arabe a laissé le champ libre aux Nations Unies. A travers la CESAO, l'ONU peut se vanter de jouer son rôle universel: renforcer la paix et la sécurité, par le biais de la coopération. Le message chaleureux envoyé par Bouros Ghali à la 16ème session de la CESAO contribue, selon un diplomate américain, à redonner la confiance des pays de la région dans la Commission régionale de l'ONU.

La participation des diplomates occidentaux en tant qu'observateurs a été remarquable. La CEE a répondu, par l'intermédiaire de l'ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni (Présidence de la CEE), à un rapport de Tayseer Abdel Jaber concernant l'impact du marché unique sur notre région. Un débat fructueux et sans accrochage s'est créé, vu les intérêts communs de ces deux parties du monde dans l'établissement de relations économiques équitables.

The Star

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Ocean of colors

National Gallery hosts modern talents

By Haltham Ibrahim
Special to The Star

THE NATIONAL Gallery of Fine Arts is holding an exhibition under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma featuring three talented female artists. The trio, Dodi Tabaa, Naz Ikramullah and Nabillah Hilmi were contacted by the Jordan National Gallery in order to exhibit their work to the Jordanian public.

The artists came together under an exhibition entitled "Dialogue In Expression", meaning free expression of their ideas and helping people in understanding them. The exhibition brings three women, who share a divine love for art, under one roof for the first time.

Although they share an eastern heritage, their work is both modern in style and technique. Their contact with other cultures shaped their ideas producing art that reconciles the past and the present especially in Naz's work. They use any material at their disposal, ranging from water colors to lithographs and Xerox prints, to make their ideas come alive. It is not important to them what they use as long as it can help in representing their ideas to people.

Although free expression as a form of art is hardly a hit with the public here in Jordan, the artists were more than happy to help in bringing new ideas and relating them. They indefatigably explain their ideas to people who attend the gallery, thus helping people to absorb their work instead of engaging in visually illiterate conversations that can result in a "even my child can paint better than this" statement. They receive this kind of nonsense even in the west. After all, modern art is a controversial subject.

The first of the artists I met was Dodi, who was born in Quetta, Pakistan. She holds diplomas in art and graphic design from Ruskin school of art and the Punjab University and has extensive experience in art having worked as gallery manager for Royal Jordanian Art Gallery.

She has done voluntary work with major art galleries in Europe in addition to being graphic designer and art and media consultant. She has had several solo as well as some group exhibitions. Her work is rhythmic and involves a certain sense of beat that borrows ideas from "common but stimulating sources" such as music.

Music forms textual imprints in her mind that guide her hand to graceful and expressive lines and shapes. She sometimes uses geometric elements combined with lines of color to produce creative images from ordinary shapes. Science fiction is a love of hers that is illustrated in the painting dedicated to the famous British science fiction writer



Art and war mix dramatically in Naz's work

H.Q.Wells. Under the painting there is a caption by Wells "human history is in a race between education and catastrophe." Adversity, tragedy, happiness and other personal encounters are forms of inspiration that add humor and sadness to Dodi's work. Art can broaden people's minds by sharing the artist's imagination and vision with them. In Dodi's words "the more I looked at the works in terms of form and structure, the more I saw the hidden images that create a picture which extends one's imagination while sharing my spirit."

Nabillah Hilmi was born in Jerusalem. She holds a BA in fine arts (with distinction) and a diploma in higher studies in law. Her credits include several solo exhibitions, juried shows and group shows as well as book cover illustrations, not to mention being the author of a script written for the radio entitled *Islamic art and architecture*.

Reality, her main inspiration, becomes abstract in her work to express motion and illusion while inducing the spectator to follow his own dream. She focuses on relationships between lines and form, and space, capturing the essence of the image which she sees while keeping a distinct personal interpretation. She uses collages to add dimension and transparent depth to her drawings.

Graceful light strokes give a sense of movement to her work with a breath of life. Nabillah is a very focused artist in her ideas, but she is not afraid to venture into foreign artistic territory to examine new ideas. Naz Ikramullah is the veteran amongst the trio. She studied painting and drawing, sculpture and did a post graduate studies of lithography in England. In New York she attended evening classes at the Pratt Institute. Her solo and group exhibitions can easily fill up a few pages not to mention her collections that spread around the world.

Naz tries to relay many ideas in her art both political and personal. She often works by layering to create the illusion of the past with the present in one image.

Her main focus in her work is on people or places or events.

Xerox printing is a very unique method used by the artist. It allows her to achieve very specific textural effects, sometimes being truly staggering. During the Gulf War she couldn't paint. She told me "I couldn't imagine myself painting while other people were being killed." Later, she began a painting about the war. It is a picturesque work that focuses on the many aspects of war, especially destruction. You can see a dramatic small collage of soldiers going to the war, made very impressive indeed by a touch of spooky colors. Her paintings borrow from her Pakistani heritage as well as capturing it in a modern style.

The gallery experience was full of great visual richness. It takes you far beyond the traditional norms of art perception. If you like art in any form, drop by to enjoy a sense of virtuosity and vividness in the ocean of colorful modernism. Many thanks go to Her Royal Highness Princess Wajdan Ali and to Mr Suhail Bisharat, the gallery's director, who said that the number of people attending galleries has increased, but modern art remains alien.

Riad and Zeln al Khouri's first wedding anniversary was celebrated in style on Saturday 29 August, at their villa in Jebel Lweibdeh. Among the 100 or so close friends who attended were Yasser and Janine al Tal, Osama and Ghada El Sherif, Badr Rashid, Haya Ghanma, Hazem and Maha Malhas, Fadi and Rula Ghandour, Mitri Twa, Suhayr Ammar, Nihad Zakharla, Halem and Dina Zeln, Lana Batarsan, Hisham and Tony Qaddoumi, Tony and Lina Kattan, Ziad Ghanma, and Othman Malhas. Amman's foreign community was well represented by, among many others, Roger and Joanne Harrison, Philippe and Rosalynne Cardinal, Mark Le Goy, and Hilarich Reinström. The Star joins them all in wishing the happy couple many anniversaries to come.



● The folklore group *Al Hanonah* returned to Amman after participating in the functions of the Tunisian summer festivals which opened on 15 July. The group participated in ten festivals, four of them were international and six national, in addition to some special shows, presented by *Al Hanonah* in the Tunisian capital.

The general director of the group, Mr Sa'ada Saleh, told *The Star* that his group presented songs in a number of Tunisian cities. He said that their performances were warmly received by the Tunisian people due to diversity in the performances presented by the group. *Al Hanonah* will make a number of presentations in Jordan next week.

● Al Ribat Fitness Centre held its fourth annual Quiz night last Thursday 27 August. More than 80 guests, forming 13 competing teams, gathered around the centre's swimming pool to try and answer the highly interesting set of questions prepared by Mr Hussein Hammad and Mr Hisham Diranleh. Mrs Haifa Hammad, the club's director, did an excellent job helping out in the event's organization. Questions ranged from local politics to popular music and the audience had a good time especially when they were asked to dance.

The quiz night was interrupted by dinner, which included traditional food like *shawarma* and *falafel* and cake made by Mrs Nida Khalaf, who also donated one of the prizes. The first slide show, held on Wednesday 26 August, concentrated on the traditional Islamic architecture of Andalusia. Ayman Zualter gave the audience a romantic personal interpretation of slides he took on a recent visit to the Andalusian palaces.

The second slide show focused on contemporary Spanish architecture. Bilal Hammad who was the main speaker of the second slide show was a member of the design team who designed the Jordanian Pavilion in the Seville International Expo 92.

Salwa AlJoush and Maha Salameh. Other prizes included books, courtesy of Dar Al Fata Al Arabi and free portraits for the winners by the Phoenix Gallery.

● The Engineers Association's cultural committee held two architectural slide shows on the architecture of Spain. Both slide shows were presented by architects Bilal Hammad and Ayman Zualter.

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Agenda

FILMS:

■ The American Center invites you to its film festival, which was opened by ambassador Roger Harrison on Tuesday at the American Center auditorium in Abdoun. The film festival will feature three box office hits: *Beauty and the Beast*, *City of Hope* and *The Addams Family*. *Beauty and the Beast* is a Disney

animated block-buster which tells the classic story of Beauty and the Beast with new delights and surprises. *City of Hope* is a story set in the final decade of the 20th century where the urban landscape of America is no longer the land of opportunity it once was. The Addams Family is derived from the Charles Addams drawings that spawned in the mid 1960's television show, "The Addams Family". It is a funny revival that goes well beyond the limits of its original sources.

For more information contact the American Center at 820-101, ext. 2573

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Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
5 september
to 11
september

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes.
9:00 — Encounter: This week hosting Dr Hassan Hanfi.
9:30 — Varieties
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Mini series: Grass roots. Episode 1. Starring John Slover and Rod Taylor. A murder case in Gengia reveals the existence of a secret organization against coloured people.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Coach
9:10 — Documentary: The green world, Australia: An evidence, dating back four million years, is discovered regarding plant evolution.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Grass Roots. Episode II: The organization decides to kill lawyer Lee who discovered them, but P.I. Anderson saves his life and destroys the organization.

MONDAY

8:30 — Close to Home.
9:10 — Gone to the Dogs.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Strauss family.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Acropolis Now.
9:00 — Mr. Bean.
9:30 — Tex.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film. "The Karate Kid II" Starring Ralph Macchio. Daniel gets beaten up by a Karate bully. He meets an elderly neighbour who teaches him the secrets of martial arts.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Perspective.
9:10 — Man of the People. Mr Doyle goes to Vegas.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Bethune: The making of a hero. Starring Helen Shaven. The journey to MAO. A true story about a Canadian, Dr. Bethune, who joined the medical services in China during the Japa-

nese invasion in 1938.

THURSDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest.
9:00 — W.I.O. "Cradle to Grave". The crew of Channel 12 news investigate patient abuse especially in elderly or patients.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of The Week. "Fire". Starring Alex Gord, Donna Mills. The people of Silvertown join their forces and forget their differences to put out the big fire burning in the forest.

The Good Guys, Friday at 9:10

FRIDAY

8:30 — Golden Girls.
9:10 — The Good Guys. Episode I. Horseplay.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — EL CID.
11:10 — The Powers That Be.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les aventures du Bosco.
6:30 — Operation Mozart.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fenêtre Sur. A local program.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant.
5:55 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.
6:15 — La Chance aux Chansons. A variety program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — E-M6. A scientific magazine.

LUNDI

6:00 — Au Clair de la Lune.
6:10 — Le Monde Sous-Marin

de Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine Sportif.

MARDI

6:00 — Histoires Naturelles. A documentary program about animals.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Monde est à Vous.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique: Agricultural magazine in Africa.

JEUDI

6:00 — Envoyé Spécial. "Extreme stress."
6:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties.

VENREDI

5:30 — Documentary: Géoscope.
5:50 — Les Clés de Fort Boyard. A game show.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program.

HOROSCOPE



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Get most of your writing chores done the first part of the week. Over the weekend, call home.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): You might feel sluggish the first of the week. On Thursday, you should start feeling better.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): You will be at your best Monday through Wednesday. Make all your contacts then. You'll have to sleep most of Friday.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): Things may be going so fast the first part of the week, it could be hard to keep up. You may decide to forgo weekend activities.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): A complicated subject could demand your full attention the first of the week. Schedule sports for the weekend.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): You'll remember just about everything you hear this week. Save your money this week.

LIBRA (23 September - 23 October): Monday could be difficult. Tuesday and Wednesday, you'll meet fascinating people.

SCORPIO (24 October - 21 November): The first part of this week, information could be coming in too fast. By Thursday, you'll be ready for a break.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Socializing may take up the first of this week. Saturday and Sunday, exercise is top priority.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Monday morning, organize your whole week. You could run into an argument at a party this weekend.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): The Monday-morning blues will give way to exuberance. A walk and talk with a friend would be a good date.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March-20): Monday morning, prepare for an onslaught of material. Love may come into your life.

TOP HITS

POP SINGLES



1. Baby-Baby-Baby, TIC, Arista
2. End of the Road, Boyz II Men, Motown
3. This Used to be My Play Ground, Madonna, Warner Bros.
4. November Rain, Guns N' Roses, Geffen
5. Giving Him Something He Can Feel, En Vogue, Epic
6. Life is a Highway, Tom Cochrane, Capitol
7. Baby Got Back, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Reprise
8. Stay, Shakespeare's Sister, London
9. Just Another Day, John Secada, SBK
10. Humpin' Around, Bobby Brown, MCA

VIDEO RENTALS

1. Hook, Dustin Hoffman, Rob-In Williams, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-1991)
2. The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, Annabella Sciorra, Rebecca DeMornay, Warner Home Video (R-1992)
3. Cape Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
4. Grand Canyon, Kevin Kline, Danny Glover, Fox Video (R-1991)
5. Buggy, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Columbia TriStar Home Video (1991)
6. Father of the Bride, Steve Martin, Touchstone Home Video, (PG-1991)
7. Addams Family, Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Paramount Home Video (PG-13-1991)
8. Star Trek VI, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, Paramount Home Video (PG-1991)
9. Rush, Jason Patric, Jennifer Jason Leigh, MGM/UA Home Video (R-1991)
10. Shining Through, Michael Douglas, Melanie Griffith, Fox Video (R-1991)

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Would You Believe....

Lake Baikal in the former Soviet Union holds one-fifth of the world's fresh water. It's more than a mile deep.

Two people in Toledo, Ohio, have opened a drive-in restaurant for pets. It features dried food, dog treats and catnip.

What was the original profession of "The Twilight Zone's" Rod Serling? He was a playwright.

William Maxwell Gaines, the now deceased publisher of "Mad" magazine, once flew to Haiti with 20 of his staffers to try to persuade his one subscriber there to keep getting his magazine.

Vanilla comes from a vine that grows to 50 feet long.

Solution

CLUB DRAMA FROD
AREA ERLER BIDE
DUET SWAITE TICON
STRESSED NAFERY
HERO BOIL
HALTER BETTERED
ZILAC SICALA SLOVE
EVERY TRIAPP EKE
DESERVED POSTER
GRACES SEALLIONS
LUKE TAIAR DRIP
ODIN GRAISE DRIP
WEST RAGEID REAR

JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

A Greedy Double

BEFORE YOU double what seems to be the final contract of the opponents, you should think twice:

First time: To think if the opponents have an escape contract and they will make use of your double to correct their final contract.

Second time: If they don't have an escape contract, would your double contribute some valuable information to the declarer that may help him declaring the hand?

Take this hand from a recent duplicate session:

NS vulnerable Dealer: South

♠ A 6 4
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ K 3

♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ Q 3
♦ A Q 10 9
♣ A Q 10 9

♠ K 10 8 2
♥ K 10 6
♦ K Q J
♣ 6 5

West North East South
2♠ (1) Double 2N (2) Double
3♠ 4♠ Pass End

(1) Heart and a minor
(2) Bid your minor

North preferred to bid the game in view of the vulnerability since he needs four down to compensate the game values. At all tables except two the auction ended as shown on the bidding diagram.

At the two tables which Dr. Effrem Azar and I were sitting East, we both doubled and put the contract one down to share the top score of the board.

West led the ♠ Q and the declarer had to lose a trick each suit after winning the lead in his hand. Watch the magic line of a good declarer:

Win the lead in dummy.
Play a small Spade to the ten.

Back to dummy via the Spade Ace.
Play the last Spade and cover East's trump.

Play a Club. South wins and his best return is a club to dummy's king.

Play a small heart from dummy and East is a dead duck! If he ruffs, then he eliminates your four losers to three only. If he doesn't ruff, then you win with the king of heart and open the diamond suit and finally end play any of the opponents.

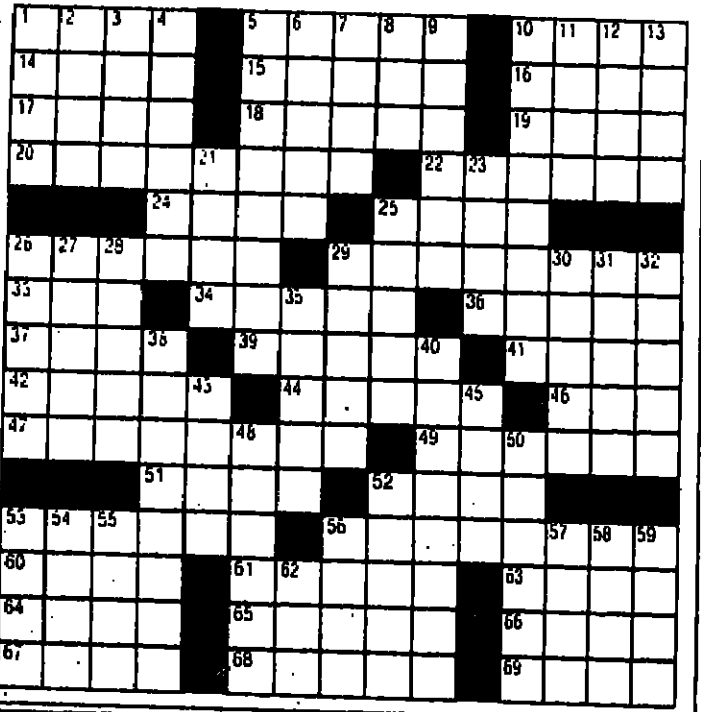
Why should any good declarer follow this line? Because we had doubled.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Phone
10 Walked
14 Certain
15 Certain
16 fisherman
17 Musical
18 Wet stretch
19 Sacred
20 Underlined
22 Table linen
24 Lack
25 Seethe
26 Rope for
27 Improved
33 — carts
34 Low chair
36 Alien or
37 Element
38 Milan's
41 Opening
42 Tennis's
44 "Sound of
46 Make do
47 Placard
49 Placard
51 Animal fat
52 Narrate
53 Adorns
58 Ocean
60 De — (rich)
61 Aslatic
63 Fall
64 Norse god
65 Rub out
66 Fitzgerald
67 Occident
68 Fumed
69 Bring up
2 In — (spin-
ing one's
wheels)
3 Lustful
4 Not evident
5 Dinner
6 Married
7 "When I
was —"
8 Brooks or
Ott
9 "We —
amused"
10 Three of
a kind
11 Oriental
staple
12 Fragrance
13 Contradict
15 Observes
23 Islets
25 Ms. Abzug
26 Initiated
27 in a way
28 and
kicking
29 Paths
29 Get on a
train
30 Lease again
31 Bring out
32 Stop
35 Musical
group
38 Moon shape
40 Came into
view
43 Correct
again
45 Vote
48 Canopy
50 Certain
pitch
52 Twit
53 Shine
54 Obnoxious
55 Spindle
56 Deer
57 Heraldry
term
58 Girl of
society
59 Practice for
a bout
62 Parseghian

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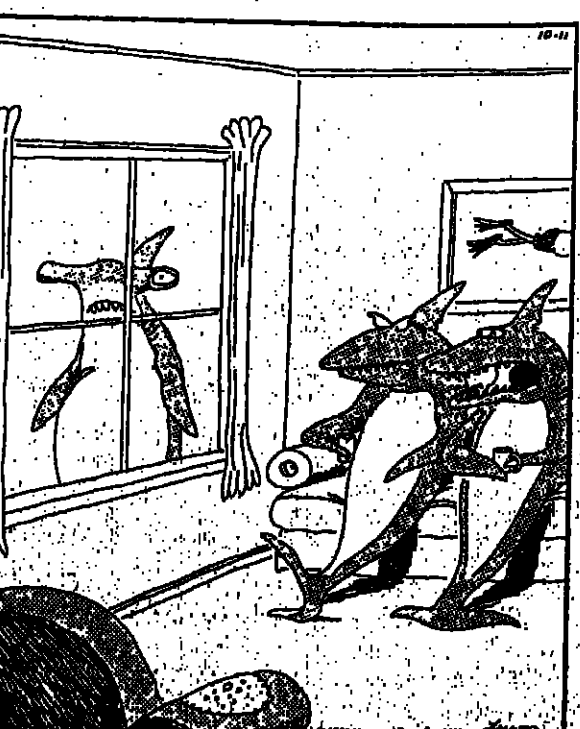


THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"You should hear him! ... First he howls and growls at me and then he thinks he can make everything OK by scratching me behind the ears."



"My marriage is in trouble, Barbara. You ever tried communicating with a hammerhead?"

Diplomatic Corps

Algeria	641271/2
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	664148
Bahrain	675583
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677559
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen.	623224
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	672331
Hungarian	816614
Indian	637262
Iraqi	639531
Italian	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
Japanese	672486/7
Yugoslavian	665107
Kuwaiti	673158
Libyan	641383
Libanese	641381
Moroccan	641431
Netherlands	637967/625165
Indonesian	828911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatari	644331/2
Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	662140
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
United Arab Emirates	644369
United Kingdom	823100
United States of America	644371
USSR	641158
Yemen	642381
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNDP	668171/7
UNRWA	669194/8
(Taiwan)	671530
UNICEF	629571
Com. of Sri Lanka	645312
Com. of Iceland	698851

Airlines

Alyenda (Air yemen)	653691
Aeroflot	641510
Air France	666055 / 667824
Air India	688301/2
Air Lanka	682140
Alitalia	625203
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624363
Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
Gulf Air	653606/656616
Hellenic Airlines	639295
Iran Air	637827/644036
Iraq Airways	628596/628598
Jordan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Kuwait Airways	690144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airlines	639575/653446
M.E.A.	636104
Olympic	650125/638433
Philippine Airlines	625981
Polish Airlines	625981
Qatar	641430/653447
Royal Jordanian	678321
Sabena	639333
Saudi Arabian Airlines	664649
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sri Lanka Airlines	694501
Taiwan	641430/653447
U.S.A. (659791/641906)	
USAR	622147
Syrian Air	637380
Thair Airways	604649
Thai World Airlines	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemen Airways	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

Diary

Activities

Cultural centres

Royal Cultural Centre... 661026/7
American Centre Library... 641520
British Council... 636147/8
French Cultural Centre... 637009
Goethe Institute... 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre... 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre... 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre... 639777
Haya Arts Centre... 665195
Husseini Youth City... 667181/5
Y.W.C.A... 641793
Y.W.M.A... 736572
Amman Mun. Library... 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library... 834555

Cinemas

Concord... 677420
Rainbow... 625155
Plaza... 674111
Philadelphia... 634144
Nijom... 675571

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City... 667181
Orthodox Club... 810491
Royal Automobile Club... 815410
Royal Shooting Club... 736572
Royal Chess Club... 673713
Royal Racing Club... 09-801233
Jordan Bridge Assoc... 676990

Rent-a-car

Shakhshir... 668958
Al-Jabal... 606669
Kada... 665161/665153
Al-Labadi... 813554
National... 639197/8
Nebo... 816792
Petra... 605501
Rabbit Amman... 672424
Al-Rimal... 639861
Al-Samer... 665181
Satelite... 625767/621471
Star... 604904
Tiger... 671931
Trust... 673312
Al-Waha... 674105
Abu Degge... 644642/644906
Amin Jarrar (Avis)... 670498
Amman... 666327
Arabian... 641350
Avis-Jarrar... 08/51000
Budget... 604230
Deas... 669970
Dirani... 660601
Europcar... 601350/80
General Services... 674100
Gulf... 660902

Hotels

Amman

Crown... 798181
Philadelphia... 663100
Marriott... 660100
Regency... 660000
Jerusalem... 665094
InterContinental... 641361
Ambassador... 665186
Commodor... 665181
Middle East... 667150
Grand Palace... 661121
Tyche... 661114
International... 841712
San Rock... 813801
Alia Gateway... (08) 51000
Amra... 815071
Plaza... 674111

Aqaba

Holiday Int'l... 312426
Miramar... 314340
Al-Cazar... 314131
Coral Beach... 313521
Aqamarina I... 316250
Aqaba... 314091
Aqaba Gulf Hotel... 316636

Important Numbers

Emergencies

Amman Governorate... 91228
Amman Civil Defence... 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid... 271292
Civil Defence Dept... 661111
Ambulance... 193, 775111
Amman fire brigade... 198
First aid... 630341
Blood Bank... 775121
Civil Defence rescue... 630341
Police rescue... 621111, 637777
Police headquarters... 639141
Traffic police... 896390
Electric Power Co... 636381/4
Water complaints... 897467
Queen Alia Airport... (08) 53200
RJ Flight Info... (08)53200

Hospitals

Husseini Medical Centre... 813813
Khaledi Maternity... 644281/6
Alekh Maternity... 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity... 642362
Malhas, J. Amman... 636141
Palestine, Shmeisani... 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital... 669131
University Hospital... 845845
Al-Mushar Hospital... 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali... 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali... 664164/6
Italian-Al-Muhajreen... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh... 775111/26
Army, Marka... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital... 602240/50
Amal Hospital... 674155

General

Jordan Television... 773111/19
Radio Jordan... 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism... 642311
Hotel complaints... 605800
Price complaints... 661176
Telephone Information... 121
Jordan and Middle East calls... 10
Repair service... 623101

Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciations: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church: (Roman Catholic), Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciations: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summan, Tel. 811295.

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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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New Delhi 11	
Bombay 22	

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